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NATIONALISTS' GRIM PLIGHT

Battling Desperately To Prevent Collapse LITTLE PROGRESS MADE

Nanking, December 9.

Nationalist troops are desperately staving off defeat in the flood-
ed flatlands of the Honan, Anhwei and Kiangsu border region
and are fighting what may become the last and major gov-
ernment stand, North of the Yangtse.

Proposals For Peace Talks?

Nanking, December 9.
The former Prime Minister, General Chang Chun, brought back to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek from Shanghai a few days ago a proposal for the resumption of peace talks, a usually reliable source said today.
The source said the new proposal was submitted by a group of Shanghai industrialists.
General Chang Chun is now assisting Dr. Sun Fo in forming a new cabinet. —United Press.

Kalgan Now Isolated By Communists

Tientsin, December 9.
The loss of Suania and Shahwayuan, South West of Kalgan, came as a surprise in view of the earlier claims that the Communists had been routed and sent fleeing into the mountains.
Kalgan is now faced with complete isolation similar to Chung-ching and Mukden.
While General Fu Tso-yi's men are primarily concentrated within the Peiping-Tientsin-Tongshan triangular area large forces are unlikely to be available for defending the 140-kilometer railway line between Kalgan and the Great Wall Nankow pass, which is only 40 kilometres North of Peiping.
Indicating the gravity of the Kalgan situation, the curfew in the city has again been advanced one hour to 6.00 p.m.
Roads sweeping forward along the Peiping-Hankow railway are said to have been checked at Yunglo about 60 kilometres South West of Peiping.
While quiet prevails along the Tientsin-Pukow line trains proceed only up to Chenkuantun, 80 kilometres South of Tientsin.
As military developments gather speed the Tientsin Garrison headquarters ordered the registration of all motor vehicles belonging to Chinese and foreign private individuals and business establishments, military administrative, public organisations and foreign consulates in order to facilitate scrutiny and requisitioning under the martial law provisions.
This coincides with the strengthening of the defences along the Tientsin-Tangku highway. —Reuter.

The Weather

At 0600 GMT (2.00 pm HKST) the typhoon was centred about 200 miles NW of Manila. It was weakened and appears to be moving slowly North. A northerly anticyclone is stationary over China and Mongolia and a weak anticyclone is moving slowly Eastward to the South of Japan.
Today's Forecast—Light North winds, freshening tomorrow. Fair and mild with morning haze.
Yesterday's Weather—
Maximum 72.7 deg. F., 24.3 deg. C.
Minimum 55.4 deg. F., 13.0 deg. C.
Sunshine 4.2 hours.
Rainfall: Nil. Total since Jan. 1—2475.8 mm=97.4 in. as against an average of 2120.5 mm=83.5 in.
Readings at:
10 a.m. 4 p.m.
Date at. Humidity. 1015.9 1018.5 m.b.
Rel. Humidity. 90 81 %
Bar. Point. 44 67 deg. F.
Wind Direction. Calm W.
Wind Force. 0 4 knots.
Tide—
High. 0516 6.3
Low. 1818 2.8
2519 4.8

\$1,000 Million U.S. Aid Asked?

New York, December 9.
The Chinese Foreign Minister, Dr. Wang Shih-shieh, has asked Mr. Marshall, the United States Secretary of State, for a US\$1,000,000,000 military and economic aid programme for Asia, the New York Times Nanking correspondent reported today.
He made the request during the United Nations General Assembly in Paris, the despatch declared.
The Minister had asked that the United States should give Asia the same consideration it had given to Europe.
The greater part would be for military aid, the rest for economic assistance. —Reuter.

Canton To Watch Food Stocks

Canton, December 9.

The local authorities are continuing to pay close attention to Canton's food position to ensure that no shortage will occur, now that the population has been considerably increased because of the influx of thousands of refugees from North China.

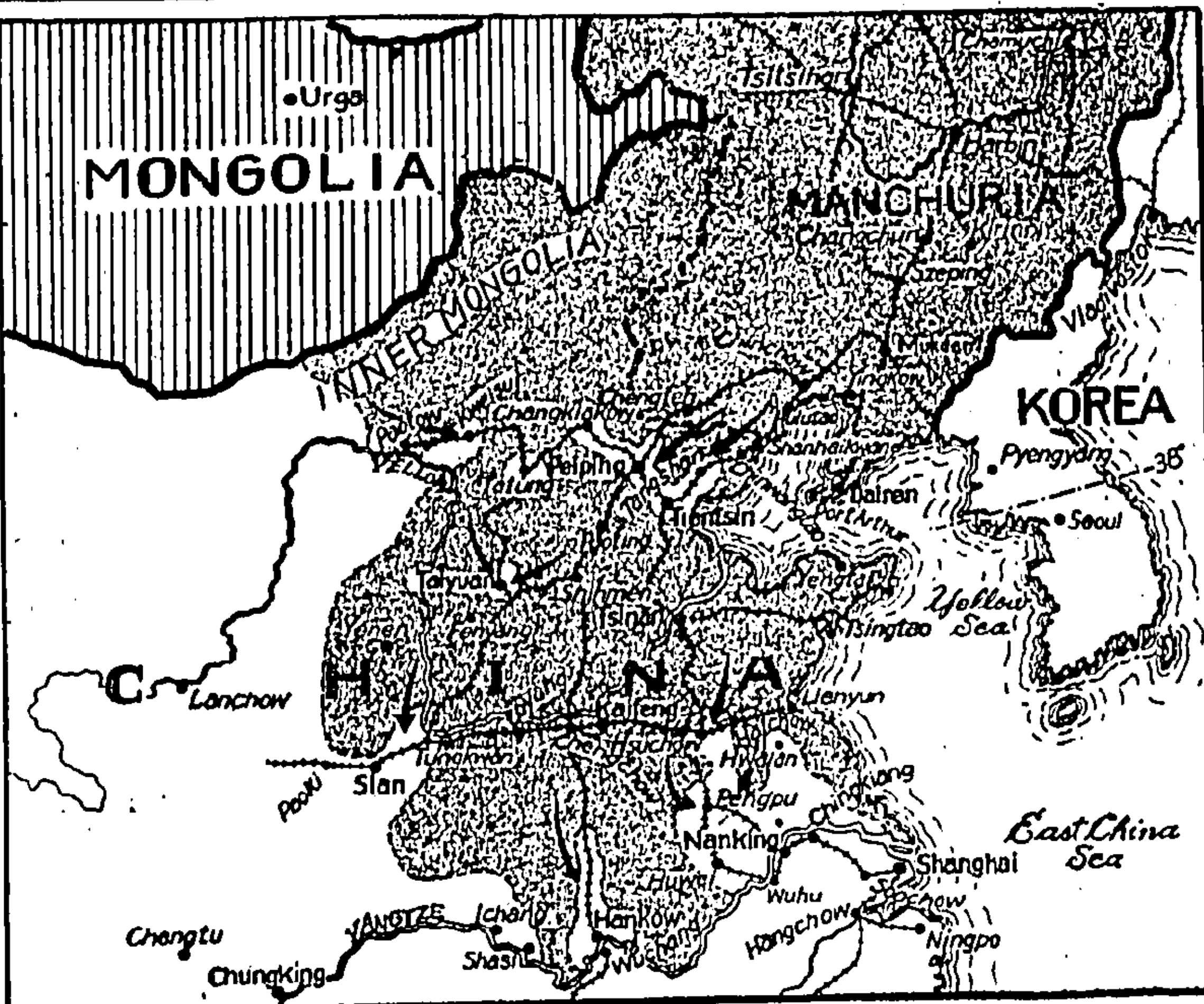
It is said that there are plans to see that there will be food, particularly rice, to meet an emergency should one arise in the future. With this end in view it is reported that there is a steady building up of rice reserves which are expected to be augmented by further supplies in the next few months.
Ten thousand tons of rice are expected from Siam and Taiwan next February while other sources of supply will be Hunan, Kwangsi and Kiangsi.
With more people coming to this city every day, the housing problem has been considerably aggravated.

Local Census

The local authorities recently called for a district-to-district census of all vacant premises and it was then thought that this might be connected with a probable shifting of the capital to the South.
But it is now clear that this measure was the first step in the Government's attempt to ease the housing shortage as it is now reported that the local Land Office has drafted provisional measures which, when put into effect, would see that vacant premises do not remain so for any unreasonable length of time.

Mobile Reds

Around them, like a pack of fleet wolves, are the thrusting mobile forces of the Communists. Not all, however, can be entirely well with the Communists. They have fought vicious campaigns without let up for six weeks and are probably in urgent need of re-grouping and re-equipment.
They are probably meeting increasing supply difficulties. Their losses must have been relatively heavy, especially through the use of "human sea" charging tactics, which the Nationalists consistently claim they are employing.
But with victory within their grasp, the Communists cannot afford to ease their pace. Whether they can triumph is the biggest question in China at this moment—the only question, according to observers.
The importance of operations elsewhere has suddenly faded into the background, while the political events, the formation of a cabinet, have become questions of relative triviality. —Reuter.



The above map shows the area where Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's troops are now locked with the Chinese Communists in a bitter and desperate battle that may decide the country's civil war. The sprawling Communist forces (Communist areas are shown in gray) are nearing Nanking, and the arrows indicate the Reds' strategic plan to join their two columns at Peking for a concerted drive on the capital. Note General Fu Tso-yi's narrow corridor near Peiping.

Korea Ready For Invasion From North

Seoul, December 9.
Prime Minister Lee Bum Suk today told the National Assembly that South Korea now is prepared to defend itself against a possible Communist invasion from the North with as many as 800,000 armed troops.
He said that North Korea's armed forces number about 250,000 men and possess only half as many arms as the Southern forces, which have been trained and equipped in large part by the United States.
The Premier said that the arms and equipment possessed by the North Korea People's Army were believed to be almost entirely Japanese-made materiel surrendered to the Soviet troops in North Korea at the end of the war.
He said the young Southern Republic was preparing rapidly for a possible attack from the North aimed at putting the whole of Korea under Communist domination.

Guerrilla Tactics

Declaring that the October Yosu rebellion was inspired by North Korean Communist agents, Premier Lee said, the puppet regime North of the 38 parallel had apparently tried to lure South Korea through guerrilla tactics, thereby avoiding loss through a battle of their so-called People's Army.
He said that small bands of guerrillas were still active in Kangwon and Cholla provinces and it would be impossible to exterminate them as long as the Communist regime continues to exist in the North.
The Southern Republic has raised a national army of more than 60,000, an equally large police force and a small coast guard force, and is planning to form a reserve corps, special student brigades and other semi-military organisations with the intention of preparing for an expected civil war when the United States and Soviet forces have withdrawn.

Saturday, being the 12th anniversary of the accession of King George VI, British warships in harbour will dress ship overall. At noon, a Royal Salute of 21 guns will be fired by HMS London and Alacrity and by the 25th Field Regiment Royal Artillery on Blackheath Hill.

Where China's Civil War May Be Decided

Combined Services To Hold Second Exercise In February In N.T.

A second combined Police-Army-Navy-Air Force exercise is being planned by the authorities concerned for February, it was officially stated yesterday. It will be confined to the New Territories.
With supplies maintained by air and sea, Army units, with the co-operation of Water Police launches, rounded up the "bandit" groups in the New Territories last night.

During the night, the "guerrilla" bands made several desperate attempts to break through the Army-Police cordoned Water Police patrol launches cut off the escape of the bands by sea.
By 9 a.m. yesterday, the combined Police-Army-Navy-Air Force Exercise Futum was brought to a successful conclusion with the enemy being captured and his organisation disintegrated.
During the night, enemy attacks were made on the Kowloon Brigade Headquarters at Taiipo and on Police and Army outposts. These were successfully repulsed.
One enemy group, which surrendered at night to the Army, disclosed that the morale of the guerrillas was low, as a result of being chased continuously for 24 hours. Food was also short.

A Real Casualty
The Army suffered one real casualty who had to be taken to hospital. As a result of the mauling of the rubber band inside a soldier's tin helmet, the helmet struck fast to his hair. At the hospital, the helmet was sawn off on top and the man's hair cut away from the band.

Colonel H. T. Alexander, told the Press yesterday that a successful lesson was learned. The operational co-operation between the Army and the Royal Air Force was excellent, but Army officers showed that they needed practice in demanding air support and reconnaissance.
He said that individual training given to the ranks resulted in a good display of minor tactics during the exercises. Exercise Futum, he added, also brought out a fact that higher headquarters are in need of lessons.
In the wireless section, the exercises revealed that all officers need practice in wireless operations. The two air drops made by the RAF were accurately aimed. Only one of 16 supply containers was lost.

U.S. Bomber In Non-stop Flight

Fort Worth, Texas, December 9.
The world's largest bomber, the United States B-36, last night completed a 35 hour, 8,000 mile non-stop flight from Fort Worth to Honolulu and back.
The bomber, carrying a crew of 16, dropped a useful bomb load in the ocean off Honolulu, the United States Air Force announced today.
Powered by six engines, the plane was built to carry a 10,000 lb bomb load 10,000 miles. —Reuter.

More Labour Trouble In Japan

Tokyo, December 9.
Labour's offensive to get increased wages with the approach of the year end settlements mounted today as the Leftist-dominated All Japan Electric Industry Workers Union decided to start a series of power stoppages beginning Friday.
The union's orders to workers in the Tokyo metropolitan area came as the All-Japan Seamen's Union ordered a third 72-hour strike, beginning midnight Friday. Eighty-one thousand seamen had just returned to work on Thursday morning after a five-day walkout seriously affecting coal supplies to factories.
The Seamen's Union voted to strike despite Allied Headquarters officials' suggestion that they stay on their jobs while union leaders negotiate with management on demands for increased wages.

The Communist-dominated All-Japan Communications Workers Union, claiming 300,000 members, threatened to strike if the Government refused to meet its demands for increased minimum wages.
Union leaders disclosed an intention to strike although aware of the new General MacArthur-suggested national public service law which prohibits government workers from striking.
At the same time, more than 400,000 coal miners working in pits stood ready to strike if the unions decide to abandon negotiations with management. —United Press.

ON OTHER PAGES

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Western Powers Draft Changes To Palestine Plans

Paris, December 9.

The Western powers decided today to cut another slice off the heart from their Palestine conciliation plan in a desperate effort to get it through the United Nations General Assembly before this session ends on Saturday night.

Official sources disclosed that small Western powers, led by Canada and Australia, have drafted extensive new amendments to the plan.

The United States and Britain, giving up all hope of pushing the blueprint through a hostile Assembly as it now stands, are understood to have agreed in advance to the changes.

The Assembly will open the final debate on the plan late today or tomorrow. It faces a choice of approving an emasculated resolution or doing nothing at this session to settle the war created by last year's General Assembly partition decision.

Even the new manoeuvre is threatened by the Arab bloc's refusal to recognise in any way the validity of Israel.

Changes are not under preparations aimed at breaking down Arab resistance to the conciliation plan winning votes from Arab supporters whose "no" votes and abstentions almost defeated the plan in the Political Committee last week.

The Arab bloc has served notice on the Western powers that its final attitude will hinge on tomorrow morning's Security Council meeting on Israel's application for United Nations membership.

Arab Opposition
Officials said the Arabs and their supporters told the West that if Israel were approved by the Council they will fight to the end against the amended Palestine conciliation plan.

Britain planned to move again for deferment of action on the Israeli application, and there were indications that both France and Canada, whose votes are essential to Israel, still are reluctant to vote for the application.
The Western delegations still were consulting on where and how to amend the Anglo-American plan, but it was understood that the changes under consideration primarily were these:
(1) To eliminate from the text all references to last year's Palestine partition decision which created Israel and the Benadotte plan which proposed revision of the original partition plan.
(2) Strike from the text reference to the Jewish state as the "State of Israel."
(3) Change the paragraph which empowers the Big Five powers to select three nations in making up the conciliation team and give the Assembly and others the right to elect the members. —United Press.

Reinforcements For Colony

Singapore, December 9.
The British garrison in Hong Kong is to be reinforced from Malaya because of the deteriorating situation in China, it was officially announced here today.

The 2/6 Gurkha Rifles would move to Hong Kong because of the improving situation in Malaya, the announcement added. They will replace at the end of the month the 1st Battalion of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers who were taken from Hong Kong to Malaya last July for operations against the insurgents.

The Headquarters of Far East Land Forces added that the Guards Brigade and other reinforcements from Britain were now acclimatised in Malaya and were deployed for operations so that the battalion of Gurkhas could be released. —Reuter.

Delegates Back From Java

Amsterdam, December 9.
The Dutch Ministerial delegation which recently held informal talks with the Indonesian Republican Government at Jogjakarta, the Republican capital in Java, on the three-year old Dutch-Indonesian dispute, arrived home by air tonight.
The delegation is expected to make a report to the Dutch Cabinet on the efforts made to settle the differences between the Republicans and the Dutch Government.
On his arrival, the Minister of Overseas Territories, Mr. E. M. J. Sassen, denied that there had been a breakdown in the negotiations in Indonesia. —Reuter.

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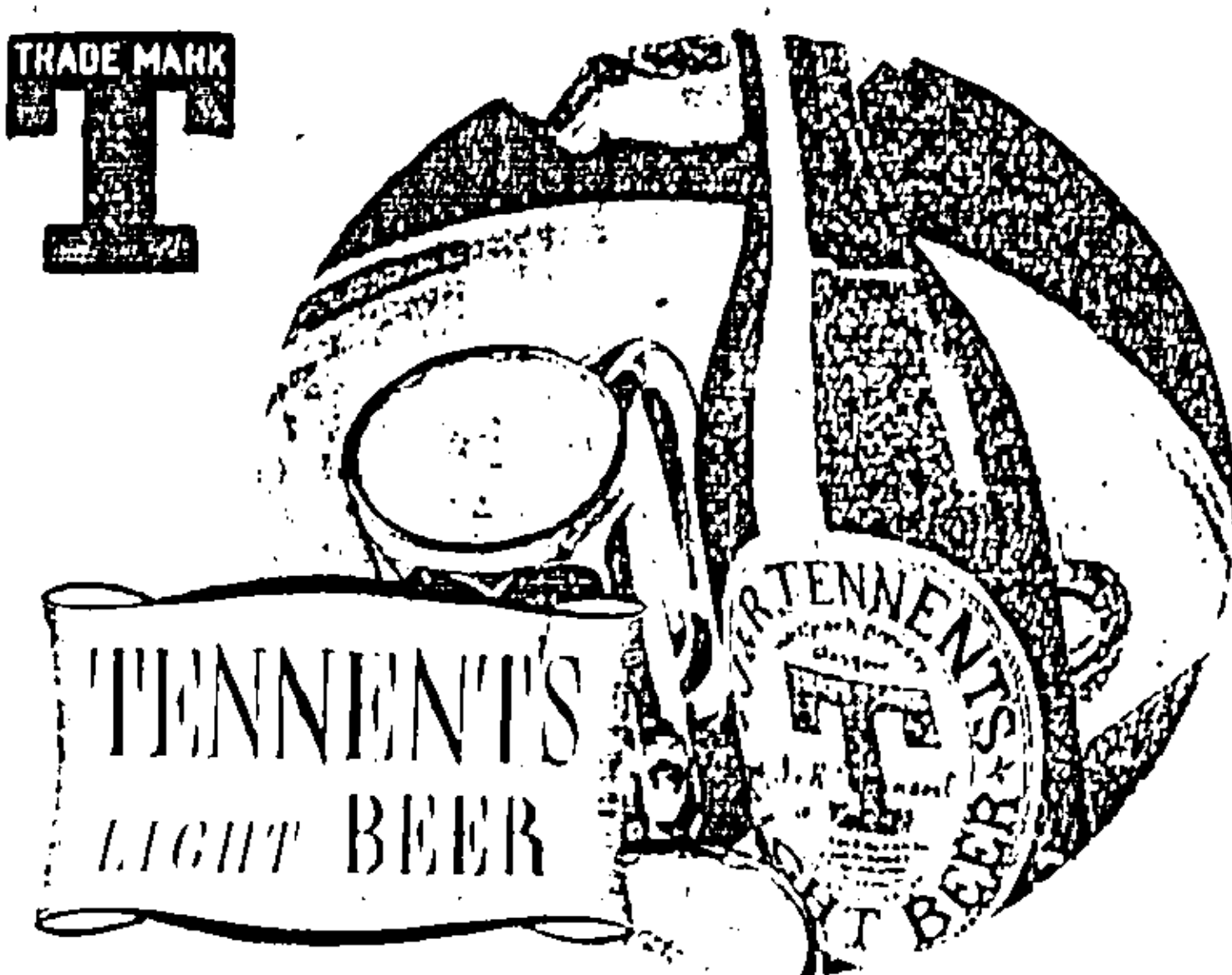
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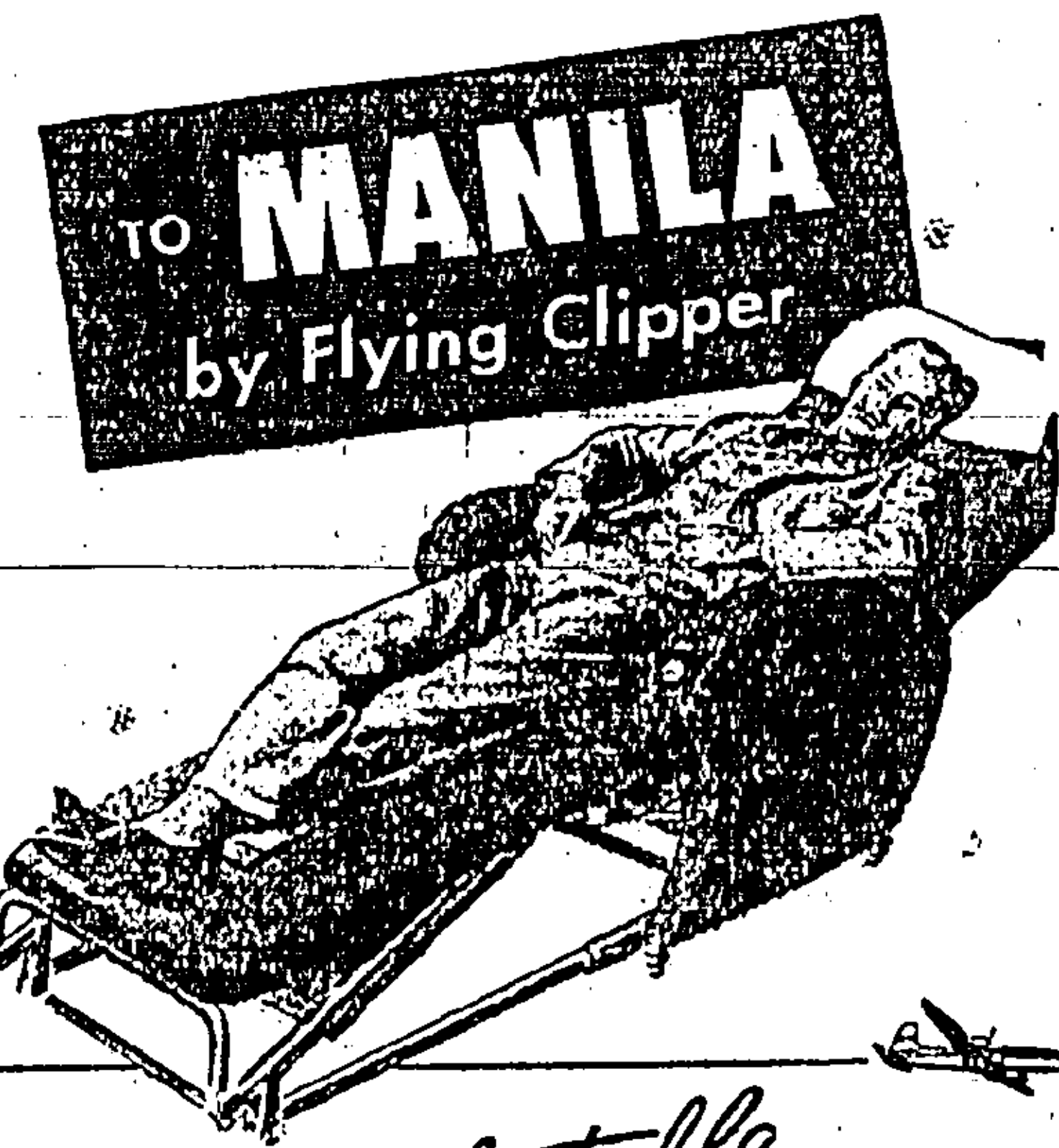
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First Ship From W. Coast Due In HK On Dec. 30

Hong Kong will see on December 30 the first strike-released American ship arriving with frozen cargo after 12 weeks of idleness at San Francisco.

She is the refrigerator ship Flying Dragon, which will be the first of its fleet to call here.

Next, according to local schedules, will be the American President Lines vessel Dartmouth Victory, which is expected to reach the Colony on January 1, 1949.

Both American ships are reported to be fully loaded with cargo and passengers. The APL ship is said to carry food and machinery. She will come here via Manila.

The United States Line's ship Golden Bear, reported to be the first commercial ship in the 90-day strike to clear San Francisco for Portland to pick up cargo for the Orient, will not visit Hong Kong, the local agents said.

The first of the APL "General" ships, the General Midge, is due to arrive here on January 4 from San Francisco, and will depart for home via Manila and Honolulu on the following day.

In January the APL expects to see eight of its fleet here. The USL has five ships due here in the same month.

The American Mail Line, for which Everett Steamship Corporation are the local agents, reported that its first ship for Hong Kong will be the Washington Mail, arriving here on January 21, to be followed on January 23 by the Island Mail. Both are said to be fully loaded.

Four ships of the Pacific Transport Line are loading at San Francisco for the Colony.

The 19-ton Mollers' tug, Alicia Moller, is now on her way from San Francisco, off Foochow, to tow back a lighter for the company's stores.

At the helm of the Alicia Moller is Mr. P. J. Hawksworth, formerly of the vessel Empire Park.

Alicia Moller left Hong Kong last evening with two British officers and eight Chinese crew.

The trip is expected to take about two weeks.

Loaded with 500 drums of potassium chloride, the Norwegian motorship Castleville arrived here yesterday from Manila. She is now anchored in the Dangerous Goods Area.

Besides the 50 tons of chemicals, the vessel, which brought 1,000 European passengers, carried 600 tons of cargo for the Colony and will take more than 2,000 tons of general cargo for the United States.

Of the 25 cows brought here from the ss. Nellore, one of the known "Cattle Ships" operating for MacKinnon, MacKenzie, 20 were consigned to the Dairy Farm. One went to the Kowloon Dairy Farm, while four others went to a Chinese dairy.

Burglars Sentenced In Kowloon

Sentences ranging from 36 months to 27 months were passed by Mr. W. H. Latimer at Kowloon yesterday on three burglars whose activities were halted by Detective Sub-Inspector A. Leslie on December 2, after they had burgled five premises between November 20 and December 1.

Wong Mai alias Tai Sang, aged 38, was given 36 months penal servitude on five counts of burglary and one of possession of instruments fit for an unlawful purpose. Aw Yin alias Aw Chau, aged 33, received 36 months' hard labour on the same six counts as Wong, and an additional charge of returning from banishment.

Wong Shui, aged 27, was banished for 10 years on May 14 last. He was sentenced to 27 months' hard labour on three counts of burglary, one of possession of instruments, and one of returning from banishment. With the first two accused, he was recommended for banishment.

188 Leslie said that at 7 a.m. on December 2, a party of police under himself and Detective Corporal Chan Kam-pui, went to an unnumbered hut at Talkoktsui where they found the three accused.

Defendants were told that the police were making inquiries in the district and asked where the instruments were. Second accused took out a bill and a jemmy from under the floor boards, and a crowbar from under the bed.

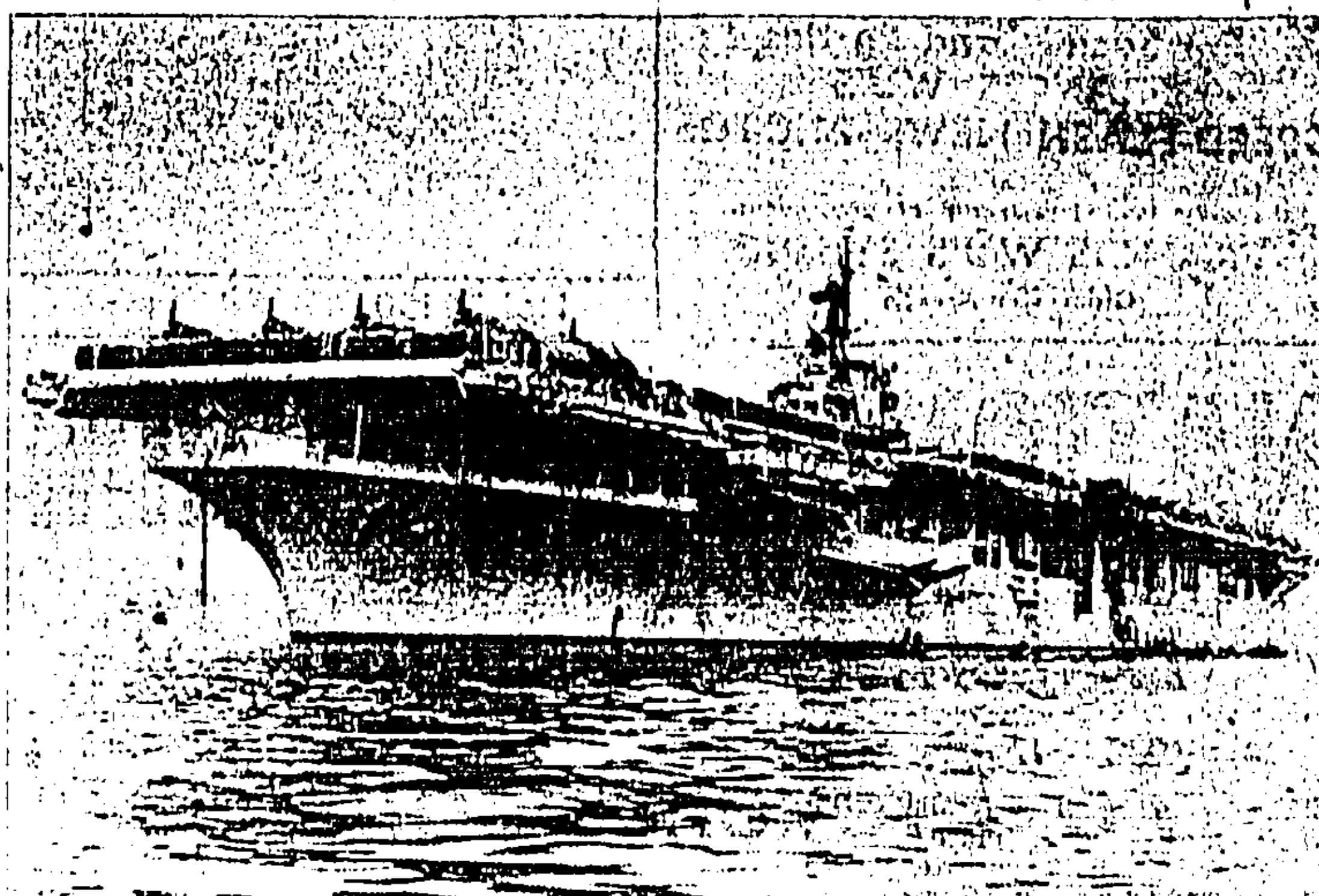
Asked about the stolen property, defendants at first denied all knowledge of them whereabouts. A search by the police brought to light a pawn ticket and a quantity of clothing on the roof. These were claimed by the first accused.

Stolen Property Found

Defendants then brought the police to Mong Kok and Shanghai Street where another quantity of the stolen property was recovered.

The burglaries took place at 5 Beech Street, ground floor, on November 20; 3 Beech Street, ground floor, on November 23; unnumbered hut at Kram Street three days later; 50 Fuk Tsun Street, ground floor, on November 26; and an unnumbered hut at Fuk Tsun Heung Village on December 1, all during the early hours of the morning.

The loot included lead, iron hammers, two chickens, brass wire, a pair of spectacles, knitted jackets, lumber jackets, clothing and a mah-jong set, to the total value of \$841.



The USS Tarawa on her arrival at the harbour with "all hands on deck" for a brief informal operational visit from Tsingtao, escorted by the destroyers Buckley and Hawkins. ("China Mail" Photo).

U.S. Carrier In HK For Short Visit

Hong Kong saw a formidable show of force yesterday when the USS Tarawa steamed into local waters in full battle array with an impressive line-up of her aircraft complement, escorted by the destroyers Buckley and Hawkins.

Stragglers Demand Free Passage

Fifteen Chinese Army stragglers, arriving here from Shanghai by the ss. Shengking, went to the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank Building yesterday to demand free passage to their country homes.

While 13 of the men attracted considerable attention by loitering outside the Bank building, two went upstairs to ask for passage money from Mr. T. W. Kwok, Special Commissioner (Foreign Affairs) for Kwangtung-Kwangsi.

While talks between the two representatives and Mr. Kwok's secretaries were in progress, the police Emergency Unit arrived and took the 15 to the Central Police Station.

At the Central Police Station, the men were searched and placed in the detention compound.

Later, the 15 stragglers were put on board the ss. Hanyang, to be landed at Swatow. The men, originally from the Swatow district, had served on the North China war fronts.

This Little Piggy Came Home

The larceny of a pig, the property of Father Page of the Holy Cross Church, Shauiwan, was the reason why Lau Wah, aged 26, unemployed, was brought before Mr. Hin-shing Lo at Central yesterday and charged with the theft.

Lau, who pleaded guilty was given two months' imprisonment and recommended for banishment.

According to Inspector Brownrigg, the pig in question was kept in the kitchen of the Holy Cross Church at Shauiwan and sometime during the night of December 4 the animal was stolen.

The matter was reported to the police and as a result of information, defendant was found on the hillside above the church and taken into custody as a suspect.

After being arrested, defendant in a voluntary statement admitted that he had stolen the pig and had sold it to a person living in an unnumbered hut for \$12.20.

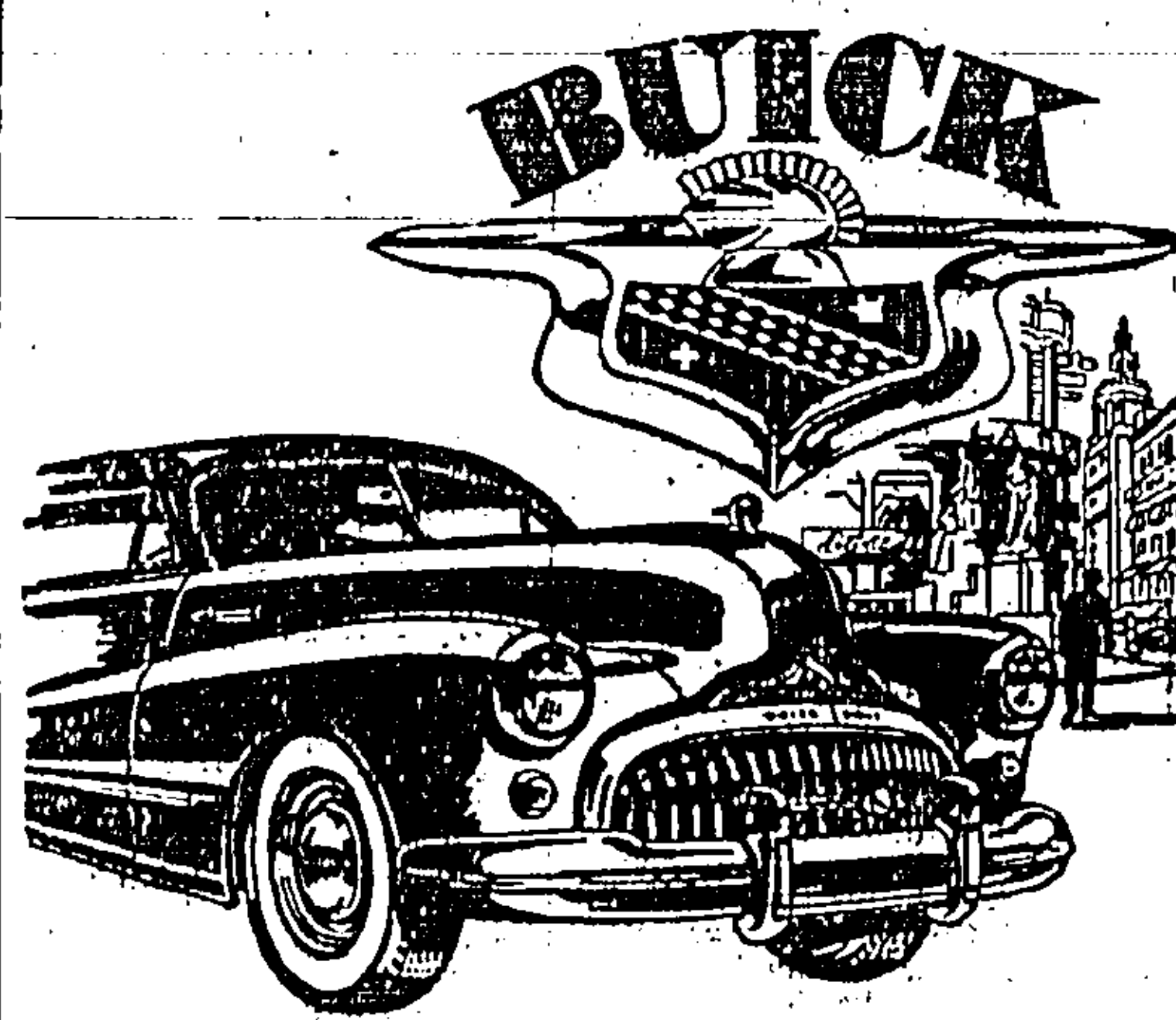
Leading the police to the hut, the pig was recovered and returned to the owner.

DOCK STRIKE CONTINUES

The draughtsmen strike at the Hong Kong and Whampoa Dockyard continues. The management, it was learned last night, has not yet replied to the demand of the strikers.

Some 30 members of the Chinese staff in the Drawing Office walked out on November 26 when the company refused to comply with requests for an increase in salaries.

The strikers have not yet collected their pay due for November. The strikers believe the strike will be prolonged as there are no major construction works on hand at the docks.



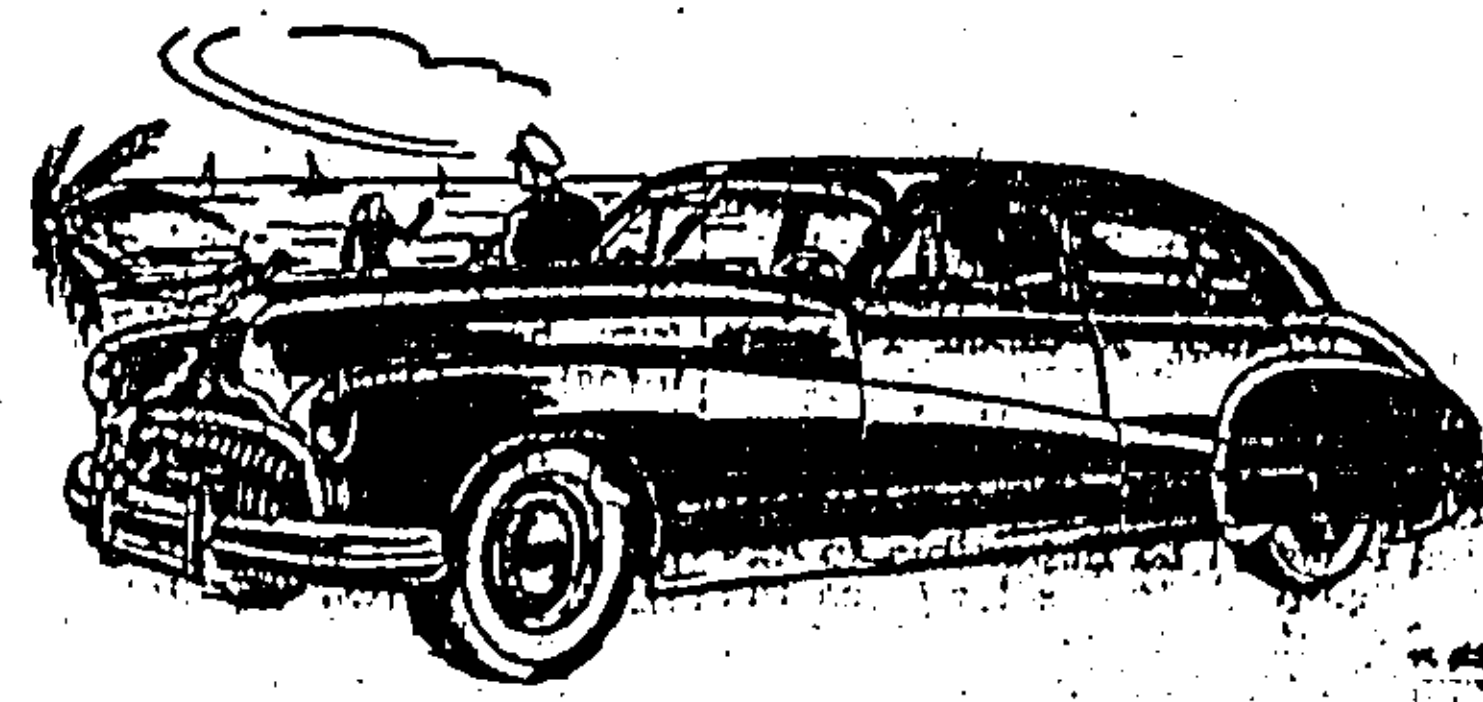
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Reminders

Today
Street Sleepers' Society, annual general meeting, PRO Lecture Room, 5.30 p.m.
Royal H.K. Club, annual general meeting, Roof Garden, H. K. Hotel, 5.30 p.m.
British Medical Association (H.K. & China Branch), extraordinary general meeting, Cafe Wiseman, 8.15 p.m.
Speech Day & Prize Giving, Diocesan Girls' School, at school premises, 5.30 p.m.
French ADC presents "Le Bal des Volcans", China Fleet Club Theatre.
Talk on "Travels in North China" by Mr. W. Harman, Sino-British Club, at Cosmo Club, 5.30 p.m.
Xmas Dance, European YMCA, for Services, 8 p.m.

Coming Events

TOMORROW
Fete and Fair in aid of Services welfare, Flagstaff House, 2.30 p.m.
Xmas Fair, European YMCA, West Lounge, 2.30 p.m.
SUNDAY
Toe H Club, Classical Concert of Recorded Music, Taihat House, 50, MacDonnell Road, 8.45 p.m.
Inter-School annual sports, final events, Carolina Hill.
H.K. Art Club sketching class, New Territories, members assemble at Kowloon Star Ferry, 10.30 a.m.

FIRE DESTROYS RUBBER GOODS

Fire of unknown origin destroyed several thousand dollars worth of rubber goods and part of the United Rubber Factory at Shamshutpo yesterday when a wooden structure on the roof burned.

Two fire appliances despatched from the Mongkok Station fought the blaze for nearly 30 minutes, it was reported last night. No one was injured.

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PAL Signs Pact With U.S. Line

Philippine Air Lines have signed an interim agreement with Braniff International Airways, one of the largest American airlines serving the Caribbean areas and South America.

It uses DC-6 equipment on all main line flights and operates a daily service to Havana, Panama, Guayaquil, Ecuador and Lima, Peru.

Through joint fares have been filed and approved by the American Civil Aeronautics Board. They follow—

	One Way	Round Trip
Hong Kong-Habana, Cuba	\$22.15	\$42.30
Hong Kong-Panama	\$22.40	\$42.60
Hong Kong-Ecuador	\$22.40	\$42.60
Hong Kong-Lima, Peru	\$22.40	\$42.60

A further agreement has been entered into between PAL and Trans-World Airlines on a joint route—the world-wide. This gives the world traveller his choice of practically all European capital cities in the planning of an interesting tour. DC-6 planes and Gold Plate Constellations will be used on this globe engirdling route.

Following a normal expansion programme PAL have purchased a new DC-6 Constellation. It is anticipated that this plane will inaugurate a weekly service from Tokyo to Sydney via Manila and Batavia.

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COURT REJECTS PLEA OF GUILTY BY YOKOHATA

The War Crimes Court at Lyman Barracks yesterday rejected a plea of guilty entered by Sergeant-Major Yokohata Toshiro, formerly of the Shanghai Kempitai, and ordered the trial to proceed.

Yokohata was charged with committing a war crime by ill-treating civilian residents of Shanghai, including Henry Forsythe Pringle, Alexander Haindrava, Ernest Le Roy Healey, Morris Joseph Soulevitch, Boris S. Frank, the Reverend W. H. Hudspeth, Kenneth William Johnstone and William Slade Burger, at Shanghai, between September 1 and November 30, 1942.

The ill-treatment was alleged to have taken place at Bridge House, notorious Kempitai headquarters in Shanghai during the war.

The Court comprised Lieutenant-Colonel S. R. Kerr, President, Major B. H. Craig, (The Butts) and Captain H. M. McLeod-Murphy (Middlesex Regiment) members.

Major Peter Clarke, R.A. Army Legal Service Department GHQ FARLEF, prosecuted. Accused was defended by Mr. Kikuchi Masao, a Japanese barrister from Tokyo, assisted by Captain W. R. L. Herries as Defence Legal Adviser.

Major Clarke informed the Court that accused at the time of the offence was a sergeant working

in the legal section of the Kempitai headquarters at Bridge House.

During the period covered by the charge the Kempitai practised a ruthless and relentless subjugation of prisoners to severe physical and mental tortures in order to extract confessions to alleged crimes.

Tortures Described

Accused was concerned in the ill-treatment of the persons mentioned in the charge, and the Prosecutor described the tortures administered.

Yokohata, in his plea for mitigation, admitted the charge, but pleaded that he acted under orders from his superiors.

He enumerated the occasions when he was ordered by his immediate superior, Sergeant-Major Tomura, to administer torture to prisoners.

"Japanese military training emphasises one thing above all others. When in order, legal or illegal, is given by a superior officer, that order must be implicitly obeyed," said Yokohata who added that "though his military training conflicted with his religious beliefs, and his conscience, he had no alternative but to obey orders."

He was so ashamed of his misdeeds and wanted so much to atone for them that when war ended he made a clean confession to his aged father, and they together prostrated themselves before Buddha to ask for forgiveness.

To the Court he would make a clean admission of the charge and would merely ask for leniency in view of his having been forced by military discipline to do what he had done.

He still had a 74-year old father to support, in addition to a wife who would be giving birth to a child this month. He had also to feed two orphan nephews, children of his elder brother killed in the war.

After Major Kerr, officer in charge of the British Minor War Crimes Unit in Tokyo, had read affidavits of persons who had been ill-treated by accused, the Court adjourned to 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 11, for closing addresses by the prosecution and the defence.

Funeral Of Mr. Bernardo

The funeral of Joaquim Natavidade Bernardo was held at the Catholic cemetery yesterday, attended by a large gathering of friends and relatives.

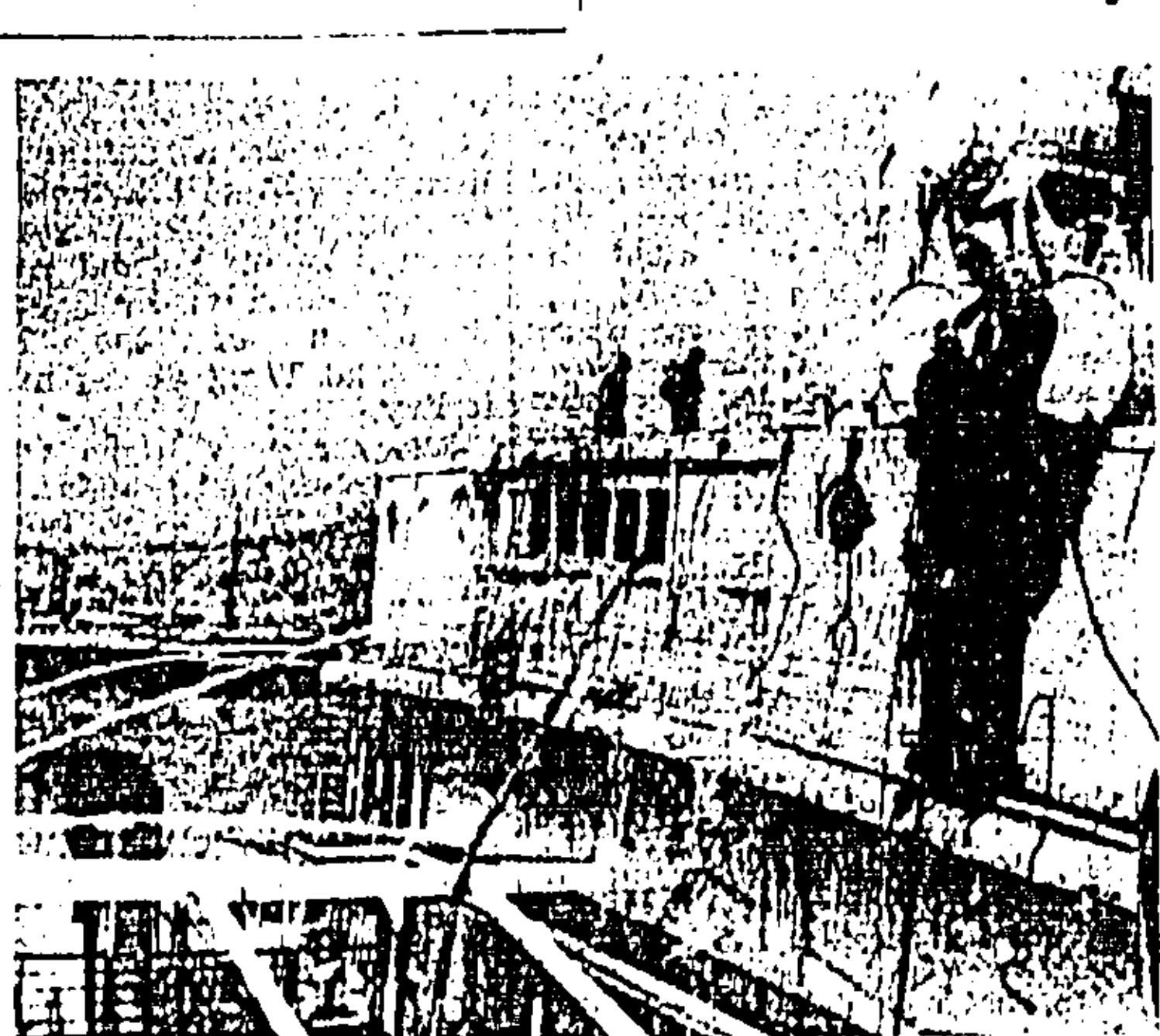
Rev. Father A. Ramacciotti officiated at the Chapel and at the graveside.

The chief mourners were: The widow, a son, Victor, and a daughter, Mrs. Franco.

Among those present at the funeral were: Mr. and Mrs. Marcos da Silva, Mr. H. A. Barros, Mr. J. E. Ward, Mrs. C. M. Barros, Mr. C. F. Osmund, Mr. B. Baptista, Mr. D. L. Barros, Mr. G. A. d'Aquino, Mr. C. M. Alves, Mr. B. Carmo, Mr. A. Baretto, Mr. D. C. Baptista, Mr. A. M. Silva, Mr. J. L. Silva, Mrs. M. Alves, Miss B. Osmund, Mr. and Mrs. B. Marquis and Mrs. C. M. Alves.

Wreaths were sent by the family and brothers and sisters.

Fire Breaks Out On Ship



The compass room and adjoining cabins at the rear of the bridge deck of the ss. Van Heutsz were gutted by fire yesterday. The outbreak occurred at Tankoo Dockyard where the 4,500-ton Dutch liner is under repairs. Fire appliances from the Central Fire Station and a fire float were sent to deal with the outbreak which is believed to have been started by sparks from a welding rod. The sparks apparently set bedding in one of the cabins alight. The fire spread to other adjoining rooms and cabins below, sending out clouds of smoke.—"China Mail" Photo.

Reception Held For Cardinal Thomas Tien

His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Tien, the first Chinese to hold such a high position in the Catholic Church, visiting Hong Kong on a holiday, was given a warm reception by local Catholics at the Hong Kong Hotel last evening.

The Colony saw one of its rare gatherings yesterday when hundreds attended the informal reception given which Mr. Chung King-pui, JP, presided on behalf of Hong Kong's Catholic Community.

Among those who went to welcome Cardinal Tien were the Bishop, the Hon. Leo d'Almeida, K.C., Mr. Tse Ka-po, J.P., Mr. N. J. Crutwell, Rev. Father Mues, Rev. Father Granelli, Dr. E. Brazzo, Portuguese Consul General, Rev. Father Spada, Dr. Y. Tang, Rev. Father Ryan, Rev. Father Shek, Rev. Father Orlando, Mr. Edward Ho Tung, Mr. Li Mau-ping, Mr. L. K. Wong, Sisters and Fathers of all Catholic societies, Mr. Q. A. Macfadyen, Mr. V. E. Allage, Mrs. Tang, and Mr. L. S. Shek.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Chung, Chinese Assistant to the Secretary for Chinese Affairs, Hong Kong, and President of the Wanchai Parochial Centre, said in Chinese:

"We are here today to extend our warmest welcome and our highest respect to His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Tien."

"His Eminence is held in the highest esteem by the Catholic Community because of his lofty virtues, his achievements, his work for the Vatican."

"Cardinal Tien is the first Chinese who has ever reached such a high position in the Catholic realm. It is indeed, a unique occasion in the history of China for a Chinese to have been consecrated to such a high position."

"This is evidence that the Chinese are able to follow and practice the principles of Holy

HEROIN PIPES, PILLS FOUND

During a raid at the Talkoktsui area about 5 a.m. on December 7, a party of police, under Divisional Inspector S. G. Smith, found a compressed paper suitcase on a piece of vacant ground.

On being opened the case was found to contain 14 heroin pipes, 4,988 heroin pills, a weighing scale, two pillow cases, a leather belt, a safety razor, and 11 pieces of clothing.

On the application of Sub-Inspector J. H. Evans at Kowloon yesterday Mr. W. H. Latimer ordered the pipes, pills and weighing scale to be confiscated to the Imports and Exports Department, and the other property to the police.

Society For Protection Of Children Gives 15th Annual Report

"We doubtless deplore the present day immigration into the Colony but any other comment in this regard is without my competence, and we do not undertake long-term commitments by placing children in institutions although it has always been a stark principle of the Society to refuse help to no child."

The foregoing was part of the presidential speech given by Mr. G. P. de Martin yesterday during the 15th Annual Report of the activities of the Society for the Protection of Children, covering the year ending October 31, 1948.

The meeting which was held at the St. John's Cathedral hall, was opened with the taking of the Chair by the President, Mr. de Martin, after which he gave the presidential address and proposal for the adoption of the 15th Annual Report and Accounts. The proposal was seconded by Mr. Ruttonjee.

Sir Man-kim Lo was then elected as Hon. Vice-President, and Mr. F. H. Losby Vice-President.

Messrs. I. B. Trevor, A. C. Arculli, Arthur Choy, Ruttonjee, Tang Shiu-kin, Li Fook-wo, J. M. Noronha, Dr. Lee Hah-hong, Father Ryan, Father Granelli, Brigadier Waller and Mrs. Y. K. Chow were elected Vice-Presidents and members of General and Executive Committees.

Messrs. Li Fook-wo and McKellar were elected Joint Hon. Treasurers, while Mrs. R. F. Waller was elected Hon. General Secretary.

After the elections, a vote of thanks was made to the Hon. Auditors Messrs. Percy Smith and Company, Chartered Accountants. This was followed by a vote of thanks to the Press for assistance in publicity rendered during the past year.

Mr. G. P. de Martin, in his speech, said in part: "In the Annual Report you will note with regret that two of our colleagues, Mrs. Sue and Mrs. Perry have resigned after four years of work. Mrs. Luk, now our senior inspector of pre-war years, is, I am glad to say, still with us."

"We received with regret the resignation of our Joint Hon. Treasurers Mr. Haigh and Mr. Wong Chai-po. "In that these resignations coincided with the offer of Mr. Li Fook-wo to act as Joint Hon. Treasurer and the return of Mr. McKellar who was an active member of the Executive Committee in previous days."

Good Friend Lost

"In April, our children lost a good friend when Mr. Wyllie went away. "We were sorry to lose our Hon. General Secretary Mr. Crutwell but here again we were fortunate in the return of Mr. Joscelyne though I am sorry to tell you that he is due for leave early next year."

Mr. de Martin went on to give statistical figures of the past year's average incomes of the Society.

The average incomes he said, were \$80 a month. The average rent paid was \$9.12, leaving a net income of \$50.88 per month for one family.

Mr. de Martin then went on to say that there was enough margin to make it clear that there had been an appreciable decrease in such money these families had been able to earn.

After going through the question of immigration, Mr. de Martin stressed the need for more Centres throughout the Colony.

Y's Men's Club Forms New Youth Clubs

Two new Boys' and Girls' Clubs of the International Y's Men's Club have been formed, as from December 1 at Fanling and Un Long. President Lam Shik-chuen told members at the weekly luncheon of the Club yesterday.

At the meeting held at Hong Kong Hotel, 100 Garden, members had a free discussion. Mr. Lam informed members that Mr. K. S. Fung, former President of the Y's Men's Club, had reported that two new Boys' and Girls' Clubs have been formed at Fanling and Un Long recently.

There are 30 members at the Fanling organisation and 30 members at Un Long. Both clubs are occupying the premises of two schools, while Mr. Fung himself has donated \$2,000 for the organisation. The club at Fanling which is near the Station is being afforded facilities by a newly-built Chinese school.

A Christmas Party will be held on December 18 at the Tsun Kong Chinese School, where the boys and girls from the New Territories will be entertained. Presents in the form of rubber shoes will be distributed. Among the programme will be a movie show and Chinese theatrical dancing.

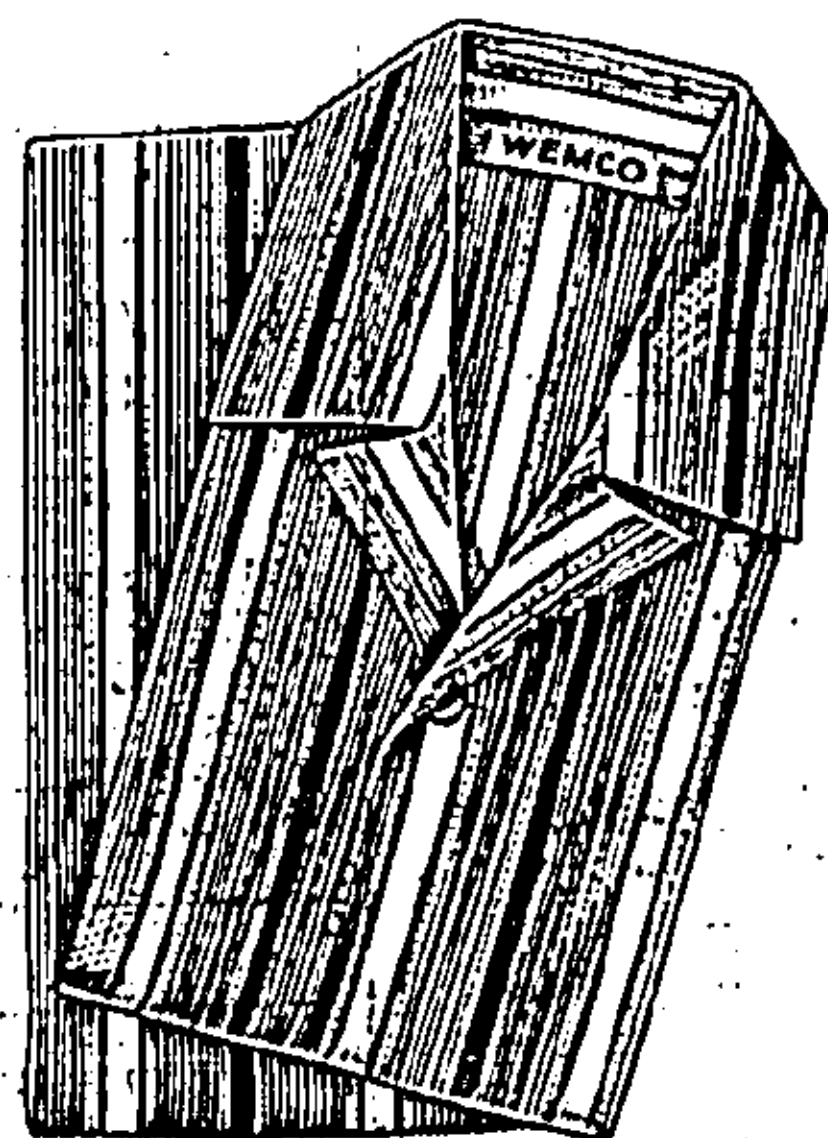
At the next meeting of the Club, Dr. R. Khoo will speak on "The American Home." Dr. Khoo has recently returned from the United States.

IT'S RAINING OPIUM

A brand-new umbrella, contained in a carton, carried by Ng Ying, aged 31, when he arrived by train at the Kowloon Canton Railway station on Wednesday was found to contain about seven mace of raw opium.

On being searched, said Revenue Inspector D. H. Knox when Ng was charged before Mr. W. H. Latimer at Kowloon yesterday with possession of the drug, another three mace was found in the folds of defendant's trousers.

Accused, who was on bail of \$250, was fined \$150.



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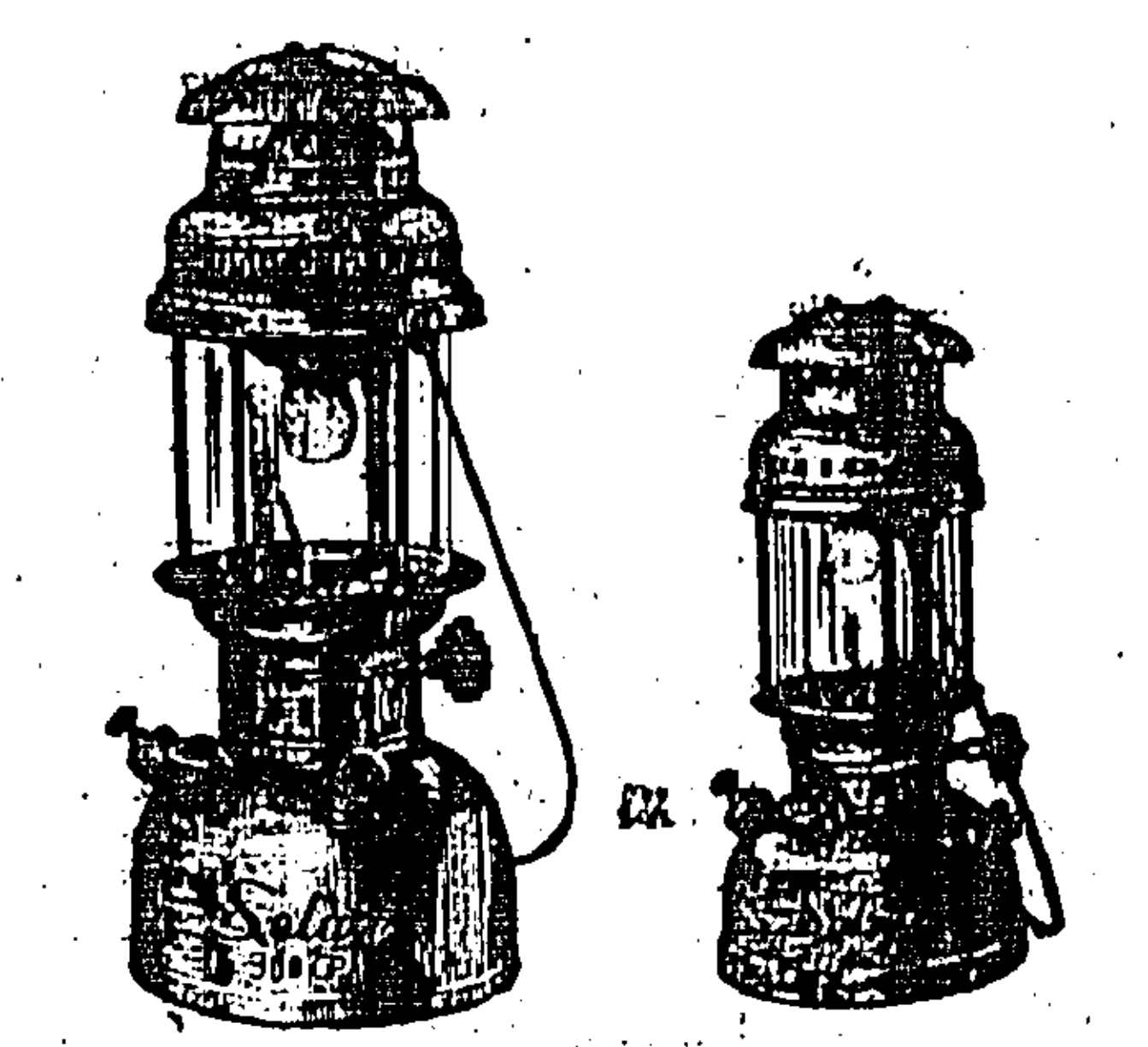
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THERE are very good reasons why thousands are now switching to Alasil. And why it is so widely prescribed by Doctors, Dental Surgeons and specialists.

Medical opinion agrees that aspirin and other pain-relieving tablets should be allowed to break up in water or in the mouth before swallowing. Alasil tablets are specially designed to break up at once in water or on the tongue, thus ensuring that they are not only easily swallowed but begin to act immediately, bringing quick and effective relief of pain. Furthermore, the rapid disintegration is an indication of their quality as also is their entire freedom from gritty matter.

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"MIRANDA"

There is nothing fishy about delightful Glynis Johns as a role, but in "Miranda" she changes her customary below-the-waist attire for an elegant fish tail.

MERMAID IN MINK

There is no message, no moral, nothing but whimsy in "Miranda," the tale of a mermaid who changes her customary below-the-waist attire for an elegant fish tail.

Glynis Johns is wearing the rudder assembly in this glorified fish story, and in the words of that little-known American fishing expert, Zany Gray, "She looks sharp as a shark in that New Look."

We are first introduced to Miranda as she is tugging mightily at the business end of a fishing line. On the other end is an eminent young Harley Street doctor, Paul Martin (Griffith Jones). All the money is on the hauling heeler until he loses his balance and is pulled down into the submarine boudoir of the seely wump.

Miranda, it turns out, has a yearning for London society. Blinded by the contradictory attractions of Miranda's upper (and better) half, and awayed not a little by her refusal to let him go until he promises to take her with him, Paul agrees to wheel the mermaid round in a push chair to see the fish-ops of London. She is to pose as a patient.

In the course of her giddy whirlings she manages to provoke amorous tendencies on the part of a young artist, Nigel Hunt (John McCallum), and the eminent doctor's chauffeur Charles (David Tomlinson) as well as on that of the doctor himself. The various fiancées and wives of these gentlemen tend, naturally, to pop at the seams a little over this.

Some consternation is caused among the ignorant, too, by Miranda's penchant for whelks and oysters as a staple diet and by her preference for the bath as a sleeping place. Had the scene been Hong Kong under the key-mayor rule this latter would have caused no comment of course.

As always in these merry phantasies, everything is straitened out satisfactorily before the end. Miranda trots back to her salty homestead after some remarks on the part of the doctor's wife who had been delving for ammunition in an encyclopedia.

Even if you find the exploits of only half a glamorous girl frustrating to be enjoyable there is still something left in "Miranda." Margaret Rutherford, that memorable Madame Arcati of "Blithe Spirit," is present in the cast as the nurse hired to look after the patient. She has to be let into the secret of Miranda's lower faculties, of course, but is not in the least disconcerted as she had always believed in the dear creatures. (Engle Lion).

STAR
Phone 58335
17 Hankow Road, Kowloon.
TODAY
2.30, 5.10, 7.20 & 9.30 P.M.

Season's Greetings
from Rats...
to a Rat!

GEORGE RAFT
GEORGE BRENT
RANDOLPH SCOTT
JOAN BLONDELLE
VIRGINIA FIELD - COLLEEN MORAN
- ANN HARDING
"CHRISTMAS EVE"

CINEMA WORLD**Zanuck Points Finger At Anti-Semitism In The U.S.**

In its own way, "Gentleman's Agreement" (at the King's this week) is as memorable a film as "Hamlet."

It is acted with a smooth naturalness that is becoming ever more rare in Hollywood productions. It is directed with a sharp eye for the dramatic rather than the sensational. It has a message.

Bluntly, "Gentleman's Agreement" exposes anti-Semitism in the United States, and as such is a powerful vehicle, shocking in its honesty but not in its presentation. Good taste has been admirably maintained without loss of effect.

The true worth of the message carried by the film will be lost, however, if audiences accept it at its face value only.

Anti-Semitism is undoubtedly a wicked and contemptible attitude. But it should be remembered that it is no more or less wicked and contemptible than the unreasoning, bigoted condemnation of any race, colour, religion or other collection of human beings.

There can surely be no reason why anyone should not hate a Jew, Christian or ring-tailed baboon if that hatred is the result of honest and just deliberation. But to indulge in the morose unpleasantness of indiscriminate persecution of any group is obviously taking the Devil by the hand.

The film's story is simple and bold. Gregory Peck is a writer who is commissioned to do a series of articles on anti-Semitism. He is an earnest person, anxious to present his subject honestly and completely, but thwarted by the difficulty of getting to the root of the matter while he is unable to view it from the Jewish standpoint. Hence his decision to let it be understood that he is of the Jewish faith.

As Peck's girl friend, Dorothy McGuire has a far less sympathetic

role and will therefore be a likely target for a little anti-McGuireism on the part of the audience. However, she gives the most convincing portrayal of a type of person which is as common as cats and about half as intelligent.

It should cause many a screen gazer to twitch under the lacerations of the conscience when they behold the vacillations of this woman whose innate decency of feeling prompts her to acquiesce at the thought of anti-Semitism but whose inbred fear of unconventionalism and strong emotion forces her to cling to the common ostrich philosophy.

It is a relief to see that John Garfield can act with restraint and feeling when necessary. One has become so accustomed to seeing him stalk through films wearing a weighty cloak of obdurate pugacity that it is indeed welcome to find him this time as a fresh, natural, Jewish ex-serviceman. His part in the film, that of a representative sufferer at the hands of the anti-Semite, is not easy and could have sucked the whole story down into the bog of bathos.

On the heads of the producer, Darryl F. Zanuck, the director, Elia Kazan, and on the film itself, has been lavished a wealth of well-earned praise which would make any further utterance on the subject superfluous. Suffice it to say that "Gentleman's Agreement" is a film which should be seen for the story it tells, and which will be enjoyed as well for its unvarnished merit as dramatic entertainment. (RKO)

Fresh Paint On Old Face

Here we go again on that creaking old merry-go-round which every Hollywood studio keeps in stock to haul out and set in motion at regular and frequent intervals. A fresh coat of paint has been slapped over the flaking surface but the tired old thing cannot fool us any more than a dear old soul can pass as Hedy Lamarr by heaping on the cosmetics.

Basically, "Love And Learn" (at the Lee this week) is just another eruption of the "rich girl loves poor boy but does not want him to know she is rich" theme. Martha Vickers is the rich girl with the passion for anonymity, and rich or poor, she will do for the popular male vote.

Robert Hutton is the nice young lad whose sensibilities are presumed to be such that the thought of his sweetie being rich would give him a severe case of the sulks. He is a song-writer in this epic, one who, teamed with Jack Carson, is singularly Robert Hutton and probably justifiably unsuccessful.

Jack Carson, of course, is good. His facial workings to register the various emotions may be considered just a little overdone, and his celebrated version of the "double take" is definitely becoming over-familiar to filmgoers, but he can still be funny. Which is just as well for "Love And Learn." The funny man's heart affliction is Janis Paige who has a certain look about her that obviates the necessity for her doing anything startling in the way of acting. For those who have not been



In "Gentleman's Agreement" Gregory Peck is a writer who lets it be assumed that he is of the Jewish faith in order that he may write of anti-Semitism from first-hand knowledge. He is alarmed at what he is told by his Jewish friend (John Garfield) and at the passive anti-Semitism he finds in his girl friend (Dorothy McGuire).

to the movies in the last 20 years, here is a brief synopsis of the so-called plot.

Two song-writers are on their beam ends. They go to a night club (it's great to be poor in Hollywood). There they meet a lovely wench who strings a tale of woe in order to (a) enlist the already obvious sympathy of one of the males and (b) to conceal the fact that she is hull down with doubletons.

This nonsensical piece of deception is successful for some unknown reason. Hence an incredible number mildly entertaining situations develop, earth-shaking misunderstandings occur, and it is all producer William Jacobs and director Frederick de Cordova can do to bring the thing to a happy ending in the prescribed time. (Warner)

TOO RISQUE

The Johnston office has turned down as too risqué designs for several of the poems Ida Lupino was to have worn in "Rond House." And it is also cutting from "Mr. Peabody and the Mermaid" scenes of Andrea King swimming in a pool in black lingerie.

GONE NATIVE

Carol Thurston, C. B. DeMille's discovery, who played the native girl in "The Story of Dr. Wassell," hasn't been seen on the screen in three years. She returns in "Rogue's Regiment," starring Dick Powell, and will play a native girl.

LEE THEATRE

ADVANCE BOOKING OFFICE
CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE, 4 QUEEN'S RD. C.
BOOKING HOURS: 11:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. daily

SHOWING TODAY: 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.20 P.M.

A Breezy lesson in easy Lovin'!!
JACK CARSON
ROBERT HUTTON MARTHA VICKERS JANIS PAIGE
LOVE AND LEARN
WARNER PICTURE
Directed by FREDERICK de CORDOVA
ALSO LATEST GAUMONT BRITISH NEWS

NEXT CHANGE
GLYNIS JOHNS - GOOGIE WITHERS
GRIFFITH JONES - JOHN MCCALLUM
MIRANDA
DAVID TOMLINSON - YVONNE OWEN
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OPENING TODAY AT 2.30; 5.15; 7.15 & 9.15 P.M.
It will be on every list of the Ten Best pictures of the year!

JEAN ARTHUR
MARLENE DICHLER
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"A Foreign Affair"

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SPECIAL TIMES: AT 2.30, 5.00, 7.15 & 9.30 P.M.



The most acclaimed picture in screen history!

"Best Film of the Year!"
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20th CENTURY-FOX

GREGORY PECK
DOROTHY MCGUIRE
JOHN GARFIELD
LAURA Z. HUBSON'S
Gentleman's Agreement
DARRYL F. ZANUCK - ELIA KAZAN
Also Latest 20th CENTURY-FOX MOVIE TONE NEWS

SUNDAY MORNING * "THREE MUSKETEERS"
AT * with Don Ameche & Ritz Brothers
11.30 A.M. ONLY * A 20th Century-Fox Picture
At Reduced Prices

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Take Any Eastern Tram Car or Happy Valley Bus

Showing Today: 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.
This is One of the "MUST-SEE" Pictures contains the Entire "XIVth Olympiad" International Sports from the Beginning to the Finish!... and in TECHNICOLOR!

XIVth OLYMPIAD
THE GLORY OF SPORT
PRODUCED BY CASTLETON KNIGHT
NEXT CHANGE: "DESTINY RIDES AGAIN"

SHOWING TODAY **Cathay** At 2.30, 5.20, 7.30 & 9.30 p.m.
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* FIRST TIME SHOWING IN HONG KONG *
THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN THE WORLD!
IN THE MOST AMAZING STORY OF OUR TIME!

H. G. WELLS
INVISIBLE AGENT
Starring: HONA MASSLY - JON HALL
with PETER LORNE - SIR CLORIC HARDWICK
J. EDWARD BROMBERG - JOHN LILL
ALBERT JASSERMAN
Presented by FRANK LLOYD PRODUCTIONS, INC.

* NEXT CHANGE * Errol FLYNN in "Escape Me Never"

SHOWING TODAY **MAJESTIC** At 2.30, 5.00, 7.15 & 9.40 p.m.

THE SCREEN'S SUPREME
ADVENTURE IN ACTION!
JOHN FORD and MERVIN C. COOPER PRESENT
FORT APACHE
Starring: JOHN WAYNE - HENRY FONDA
SHIRLEY TEMPLE - PEDRO ARMENDARIZ
Directed by JOHN FORD
Screen Play by Frank & Marjorie
An ANGELO PICTURES PRODUCTION
Released by RKO RADIO PICTURES
Next Change! JANE WYMAN in "CRIME BY NIGHT"

THE TWENTY-NINTH INSTALMENT

CRUSADE IN EUROPE

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's
Own Story Of The War
In Europe

an agreement which, in effect, left exploitation of the Sicilian operation to my judgment—but expected me to take advantage of any favourable opportunity to rush into Italy—and which emphasized the great value of the Foggia airfield. Since a major port was necessary to sustain us in Italy, the city of Naples was named as the other principal locality desired by the Allies.

At this conference long discussions were carried on regarding the desirability of bombing the marshalling yards near Rome. All agreed that the Eternal City should not be uselessly damaged—indeed, this was the policy we pursued with respect to all the relics of the ancient civilisation of Italy—but it was common knowledge that the Germans were taking advantage of our restraint to use Rome as a principal link in their communication system. No final answer was then resolved but later we were authorised to bomb the yards, taking parti-

cular care to avoid damage to Rome and the Vatican City. The broad outline of the Sicilian campaign was announced to our press representatives one month before it took place. This unprecedented step was taken, paradoxically, to maintain secrecy.

To Be Continued

CANTONESE BY RADIO
BY S. K. LEE

Lesson 3

Vocabulary:—

19. (hai) hai

20. (yan) yan

21. (koh) gaw

22. (yau) yau

23. (mo) moh

Phrases:—

yau yun

moh yun

yut gaw yun

gaw gaw yun

yun yun

Sentences:—

A.1. Hai m hai?

2. Hai.

3. M hai.

B.1. Hai m hai nay?

2. Hai ngaw?

3. M hai ngaw.

C.1. Nay hai yun m hai? (or)

Nay hai m hai yun?

2. Ngaw hai yun.

3. Ngaw m hai yun.

D.1. Yau moh?

2. Yau.

3. Moh.

E.1. Nay yau moh?

2. Ngaw yau.

3. Ngaw moh.

F.1. Yau yun lai moh? (or)

Yau moh yun lai?

2. Yau yun lai.

3. Moh yun lai.

G.1. Nay yau lai moh? (or)

Nay yau moh lai?

2. Ngaw yau lai.

3. Ngaw moh lai.

The verb "to be", any tense, or number.
Person, people, human beings.
A piece, the classifier for "person", "round things", and many other things.
To have, there is, are; did (auxiliary verb).
Not having, there is (are) not; did not.

Somebody, some one.
Nobody, no one.
One person.
Everybody (individually).
Everybody (collectively).

Is (was) it?
Yes.
No.
Is (was) it you?
It is (was) I.
It is (was) not I.

Are you a human being?
I am a human being.
I am not a human being.

Is there any?
Yes.
No.

Have you any?
I have.
I haven't.

Is there any one coming?
There is some one coming.
There is no one coming.

Did you come?
I did come.
I didn't come.

MACAO

M.V. "WUSUEH"

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2:30 P.M.

SAILS

FROM

MACAO

2:30 A.M.

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Sails from Macao to Hong Kong on Sunday 2:30 p.m.

Sails from Hong Kong to Macao on Monday 2:30 p.m.

Sails from Macao to Hong Kong on Tuesday 2:30 p.m.

Sails from Hong Kong to Macao on Wednesday 2:30 p.m.

Sails from Macao to Hong Kong on Thursday 2:30 p.m.

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"U.S. CANNOT COUNT ON HELP FROM BRITAIN IN CHINA"

HONG KONG SECURITY MEASURES

London, December 8. Hong Kong's security arrangements are receiving constant attention in view of the Communist advances, Mr. A. V. Alexander, Minister of Defence, told the House of Commons today.

It would be contrary to public interest to give exact details regarding the precautionary measures taken, he added.

Mr. Alexander declared that the matter of sending reinforcements was under active consideration of a committee of the Commander-in-Chief of the Forces, Sir John Dill, and they would make any recommendations required to the British Government.

Mr. David Rees Williams, Colonial Under-Secretary, said that the Government is doing everything possible to prevent overcrowding and chaos in Hong Kong should there be panic in Shanghai.

Mr. Rees Williams said immigration regulations apply to people entering the colony but difficulties of enforcing them are very great.

The situation is under constant review, he added.—Reuter.

Lord Vansittart's Views On Crisis

London, December 8. The United States cannot count on British military aid in China, according to Lord Vansittart, former leading diplomatic adviser to the Foreign Office.

He said, in an exclusive interview: "The brunt of any military aid to China would have to be borne entirely by the United States."

"Such aid would not necessarily involve the United States in a war with Russia."

Lord Vansittart, though not now connected with the Government, continues more actively than ever in the House of Lords, of which he is one of the leading members.

He said: "If the United States ever decides to go to the aid of China with men, it would be a very lonely venture."

"This is because, although no one in Britain except for the dissident extreme left, who favour Communism anyway, would quarrel or differ with any choice which the United States might make in respect of the nature of aid to China, I just don't think we can spare men from Malaya, or for that matter from anywhere else."

Yet, China must be helped, he explained.

Major Evil
He said: "It would be a major evil if we let China down for it would automatically mean the addition of 500,000,000 to the Communist forces of the world."

"On the other hand, we dare not aid China to the detriment of Western Europe and the strengthening of the defences of the Benelux countries. That too, would be a major evil, for it might result in a Communist Europe."

Lord Vansittart said: "Devil of a choice, isn't it?" He commented, leaning forward in the chair with an anxious look and adding: "Yet that is precisely the dilemma that faces the United States today. It is a choice between two great evils."

Other Measures
"Even United States reserves in manpower are not unlimited especially at the present time."

"And if there was ever a necessity of choosing between supporting China or the Western Powers in manpower, then, much as I would dread the consequences, I think it would be better to support Western Europe."

But Lord Vansittart does not think that military reinforcements for China are needed. He says there are other measures to take.

"For instance, a great deal can be done to co-ordinate British, French and Dutch action in the Far East and strengthen the control of arms exports."

"China needs arms, but the regime is so rotten, one never knows in whose hands they will fall when they get there."

"It would be a good thing to have American control at the centre, and even so, nobody really knows just what would happen to supplies once they left the control areas."

He explained that there was a parallel situation when Britain sent considerable aid to the anti-Bolshevik forces in Russia. He said: "We eventually lost a lot and we lost the cause too."

No War Danger
The only difference between that dilemma and the one facing the United States today in aiding China, he said, is that the former sought aid with arms and supplies but lacked manpower, but this was not the case in China where there is still plenty of manpower available.

"But we cannot afford to see supplies of all kinds taken from half-starved Europe."

Asked if he thought either direct or indirect United States military aid to China might eventually embroil the United States in a war with Russia, he was most surprised.

"Oh, absolutely not. After all, if the Russians really wanted a war they could have found plenty of pretext before the Chinese situation reached its present stage of development. Berlin for instance,"—United Press.

DOUBLE LIFE
MAN GAOLED
Paris, December 9. Pierre Houdard, who had a double life as police Commissioner of the Paris suburb of St. Cloud and leader of a gang of car thieves, was sentenced here today to five years' imprisonment for theft.—Reuter.

Czechs At The Kremlin

London, December 8. Marshal Stalin tonight received the Czechoslovak ministerial delegation, which arrived in Moscow yesterday. The Foreign Minister, Mr. Molotov, was present at the reception.

The delegation, headed by the Czechoslovak Prime Minister, Antonin Zapotocky, included the Foreign Minister, Vladimir Clementis, Finance Minister, Jaromir Dolanek, and the Minister of Industry, Augustin Klimt.

When the delegation arrived in Moscow this morning it was officially stated it would negotiate still closer ties of friendship and alliance with the Soviet Union.—Reuter.

Chinese Approach In London

London, December 9. A Chinese Embassy spokesman said yesterday that China has pressed Britain for favourable mention in the Foreign Secretary, Ernest Bevin's, foreign affairs speech to the House of Commons today.

He added, however, that the Embassy has not requested aid from Britain.

The Chinese Ambassador, Dr. T. H. Cheng, called on Mr. Bevin on Tuesday.

The Embassy spokesman said he explained the situation in China to Mr. Bevin, but that the conversation did not include any reference to Madame Chiang Kai-shek's trip to the U.S. to seek more American aid.

A British Foreign Office spokesman said he had no comment on the Ambassador's conversation with the Foreign Secretary.—Associated Press.

Threat To Church From Communism

Buckhill Falls, December 8. Communist tactics applied in three ways threaten the life of the Christian Church in China.

Dr. Ralph Diffendorfer, head of the Methodist Church Division of Foreign Missions, said this today.

Dr. Diffendorfer outlined the progressive steps by which the Church was curtailed in Communist-controlled areas of China.

First there was apparent tolerance and freedom of religion. Then freedom of movement, assembly and preaching was strictly limited. The third phase was active opposition.

Dr. Diffendorfer said, preaching was forbidden and missionaries were ordered from Communist-controlled territory.

In contrast, he reported that there was church progress in India and Pakistan, despite tremendous governmental and human problems.

Dr. Diffendorfer said the Communist attitude in China had caused the evacuation of Christian missionaries from Communist areas.

HAGUE CONFERENCE ON INDONESIA DEADLOCK

The Hague, December 9. The Netherlands Cabinet held an extraordinary session today to consider a new deadlock in the Dutch-Indonesian peace talks. The meeting was called after a Government delegation returned on Tuesday night from Batavia.

Despite failure of the latest peace talks, the Government delegation indicated it would recommend the establishment of a federal interim government in Indonesia before the end of this month.

The Government representatives, including the Foreign Minister, Mr. D. U. Stikker, and the Minister of Overseas Territories, Mr. Sassen, have been trying to get an agreement with the Indonesian Republic on the powers of the proposed interim government.

Mr. Sassen said the negotiations had been very disappointing. He said, however, that speaking of a breakdown would be going too far.

Mr. Sassen proposed that the Government go ahead with the establishment of the interim government, and include a provision which would permit the Republic of Indonesia to join later.

The situation was complicated, however, by reports some of the non-Republic Federal States in Indonesia were opposed to creation of the interim government before next year.

More Incidents
The interim administration is intended to serve only until the projected United States of Indonesia can be set up as a partner of the Netherlands in the Dutch empire.

Well-informed sources said no immediate decision by the Cabinet is expected. Action may be delayed until preliminary observers have returned from Indonesia and the political parties have had a chance to consult with their observers.

A Dutch Army report in Batavia, meanwhile, indicated an increase in incidents in the now dormant Indonesian conflict.

An announcement said 307 incidents had occurred in Dutch-controlled territory during the past week. This was the highest number of clashes in a single week since the Renville truce agreement last winter.—Associated Press.

Smallest Republic Has Claim

San Marino, December 8. The Government of San Marino, the world's smallest Republic, has ordered its Charge D'Affaires in Paris, Signor Angelo Donati, to go to London to press its claim for £2 million damages for the indiscriminate bombing of its capital on June 26, 1944.

The San Marino Foreign Minister, Signor Gino Giacomini, said today that the Republic will appeal to the United Nations and to the world Court at The Hague if the British Government refuses to meet its claim.

He added that the British Government had disclaimed responsibility because they said San Marino had been occupied by German forces. The Foreign Minister declared this was a tactical error since German troops did not violate the territory until two months after the bombing.—Reuter.

RATION MISUSED

Frankfurt, December 8. The Anglo-American Bizonal authorities have cut the German petrol and oil ration for the first quarter of 1949 by 7.6 per cent because of misuse of the allocation. The Joint Chairman of the Bizonal Office, announcing this here today, said further cuts will be made unless the misuse stops.

The Chairman termed previous German official replies to Allied complaints about petrol abuses as most unsatisfactory.—Reuter.

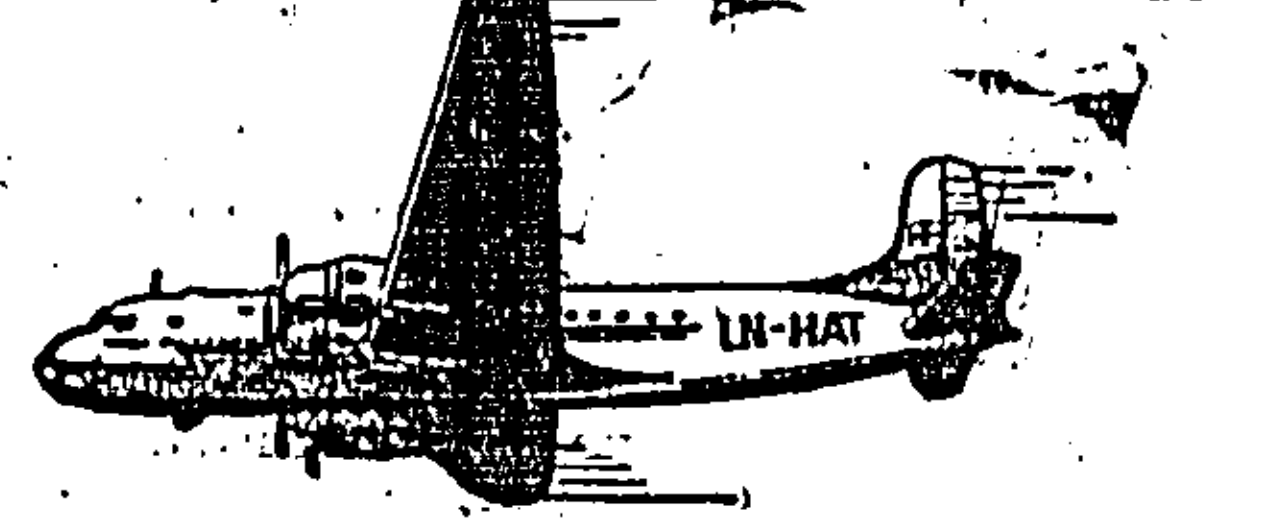
TEHERAN VOTE

Teheran, December 8. The Persian Prime Minister, Mohammad Saeed Maragheh, received a vote of confidence in the Parliament today with 56 votes out of 94. Two deputies voted against and the others abstained.—Reuter.

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Shanghai Attacks British Policy

Shanghai, December 9. In an outspoken editorial the British-owned North China Daily News describes as bad policy the British stand that the despatch of troops from Hong Kong to Shanghai is out of the question.

"This constitutes a total reversal of form on the part of the present Government and completely belies all that has been done by other Governments during the British adventure in China," said the paper.

It added that the statement of the Foreign Office spokesman means, in effect, that if the worst comes to the worst there is to be a complete and abject surrender of all that has been built up.

The North China Daily News asserted that if this statement represents the considered opinion of the British Government, then no effort should be spared to prevent upon it to change its view.

"It is entirely unacceptable to those who but a few years ago were called upon to stand by for the sake of British trade and who are now asked lightly to forsake that which was then considered as precious."

The paper urged most strongly that evacuation should not be resorted to until every possibility of protecting British and foreign interests in this country has been explored.

It said that as between protection and evacuation the latter should always be the more remote possibility.

"Unless that is the Government's view, it deserves all the criticism that can be heaped upon it."—Reuter.

Atom Bomb In Right Perspective

Washington, December 9. David E. Lillenthal, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, today denounced some scientific and some military men who shrug off the atomic bomb as just another explosive.

This view is just as extreme and erroneous as earlier assertions that the bomb could destroy the planet, he said.

The belief that the bomb is merely another piece of ordinance ought to revive demands that custody of the atomic bomb stockpile be turned over to the military or create the impression that the United States' plan for international control is quite senseless.

In addition, he said, it could make people think the Atomic Energy Commission is only a munitions maker or civilian group behind which scientists work without any conscience.

Far from being just another blockbuster, Mr. Lillenthal continued, atomic energy is a whole new world of knowledge which his Commission is trying to develop for the benefit of man as well as for the nation's security. So-called experts who either play up or play down the bomb usually have ulterior motives, he stated.—United Press.

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LONDON KEEPS EYE ON TRANSJORDAN POLICY

London, December 8.

Transjordan policy in Palestine is being watched closely by diplomatic observers in London. Reason is the possible implications for the Anglo-Transjordan Alliance, revised by agreement between the two Governments in March of this year.

This Alliance states that either of the signatories will come to the aid of the other if either is involved in war, subject always to the obligations of both powers under the Charter of the United Nations.

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Christopher Mayhew, nevertheless, made it plain in the House of Commons last week that aggression by Israel against Transjordan territory, for instance against the port of Aqaba, at the head of the Gulf of Aqaba, would be considered by Britain to come within the scope of the Anglo-Transjordan treaty and if necessary British forces would be used.

Diplomatic quarters in London are now asking at what stage these mutual defence provisions of the treaty would cover additional territory which might be acquired by King Abdullah as a result of future development in Palestine.

Bevin Statement

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin, will probably make some statement on the question in the two-day foreign affairs debate which opens in the House of Commons tomorrow.

If the Bernadotte Plan placing Arab sections of Palestine under Transjordan rule had been endorsed by the United Nations, there is every reason to expect that Britain would have regarded the newly acquired Transjordan territory as coming within the scope of her Alliance with Transjordan.

But there is so far no ruling on what would be the position. If Transjordan sovereignty were proclaimed or established over the whole or part of Palestine without obtaining the sanction of the United Nations. It is already clear that nothing in the Alliance can conflict with obligations to the world organisation and that the British Government will expect any future territorial adjustments in Palestine to be negotiated through the three-power Conciliation Commission set up by the General Assembly.—Reuter.

Unhappy If They Knew

Singapore, December 9.

Antara, the Indonesian Republic's news service, quoted the U.S. Senator, George W. Malone, as saying the American people would be terribly unhappy if they knew how Marshall Plan money was being spent by the Netherlands in Indonesia.

Mr. Malone flew from Singapore to Bangkok, Siam, early on Wednesday continuing a world tour. The news service said Mr. Malone told its reporter that as far as he could gather from evidence shown him, \$500,000,000 allotted the Netherlands in Marshall Plan aid seems to have been used to keep soldiers in Indonesia and maintain a virtual blockade on Republican ports and territories.—Associated Press

COAL OUTPUT IN SAAR UP

Paris, December 8.

The French High Commissioner for the Saar, M. Grandval, said today that Saar coal production has risen in three years from 240,000 to 12,000,000 tons monthly. M. Grandval, who was addressing the Anglo-American Press Club in Paris, added that he had regulated trade unionism by personal investigation of working conditions and no strike had taken place in 40 months. With the aid of Communists and Popular Christians, he had set up a unitarian trade unionism which had backed the plan for economic fusion with France.—Reuter.

An informed UN source said there is a real possibility that the Council may act on Israel's membership application before it moves to Lake Success, New York, early in January. Dr. Philip C. Jessup, American deputy on the 11-nation Council, will remain here until January 1. He will press for approval of Israel's bid whenever at least six other Council members pledge their support to make up the majority. Argentina announced on Tuesday that she would support

Murdered Own Daughters

Glasgow, December 8. A middle-aged Scots couple, William Park and his wife, Mary, were sentenced to death by the High Court here today for the murder of three of their daughters, aged 15, 14 and 12.

The parents and their five children, the prosecution said, had been found in the gas-filled kitchen of their Glasgow home. The parents in evidence said they were worried when they learned that one of the girls was pregnant.—Reuter.

Victory Of "Practical Thinking"

Batavia, December 9.

The Indonesian Republic yesterday hailed as a victory of practical thinking its admission to the UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East as an associate member.

The Information Minister, Mohammad Natsir, said "It is a victory of practical thinking over the more judicial and formal view," the Antara news agency reported. Natsir said the walk-out of the Netherlands will not affect the Commission's work.

He said that Dr. Osman Sastroamidjojo, Republican representative in Asia, will represent the Republic temporarily.

Natsir was quoted by Antara as saying the Republic is prepared to arrive at a negotiated settlement with the Dutch but cannot accept a negotiated surrender.—Associated Press.

Action On Israel U.N. Membership?

Paris, December 9.

The United Nations Security Council members will remain in Paris until January 1.

Israel's application, bringing to five the number of members backing UN membership for the new Jewish state, Three members are still undecided—France, Canada and Belgium.

Britain, China and Syria are expected to abstain or vote against the application.

An informed UN spokesman said there is only a possibility that the Council can meet on Israel's membership bid before adjournment during the first part of the Assembly on Saturday or Sunday.

France and Canada are said to be withholding announcement of their attitude on Israel until after the Assembly acts on the Political Committee's resolution for the creation of a Palestine Conciliation Commission.—Associated Press.

Frontier Violation: Britain Drops Hint

Paris, December 8.

Britain today told the Security Council's Sanctions Committee that there had been two small incursions of Israeli forces over the Transjordan frontier.

Britain might be obliged to take action under its treaty with Transjordan, it was added.

Mr. Harold Beeley, British representative, said that information from British forces was that certain Jewish forces were advancing Southwards from the Dead Sea and had reached points about half way to the Gulf of Aqaba.

He asked Dr. Ralph Bunche, Acting Palestine Mediator, whether there were any United Nations' observers in that area, and if not, whether some could be sent.

Mr. Beeley added: "There is another particularly serious report we have received, which is that there were two small Jewish incursions over the Transjordan frontier, one of which was on November 29."

"This is of serious concern to the United Kingdom owing to the treaty between my Government and Transjordan, which would oblige the United Kingdom to take action in accordance with the treaty of mutual defence," he said.

Chances Of A Solution

Dr. Bunche told the Committee that although the truce and armistice negotiations between Egyptians and Jews had reached a deadlock, he believed the chances of a solution were better than ever before.

He reported that the Egyptian Government had accepted in principle the negotiations for an armistice, but on condition that all the terms of the three resolutions were carried out.

This referred particularly to the withdrawal of certain Jewish forces in the Negev and the relief of an Egyptian brigade encircled at Faluja.

Dr. Bunche said that the Israeli Government would make the necessary adjustments laid down in the resolutions, provided it was assured the Egyptians would accept negotiations for an armistice.

No Information

Answering the British statement that certain Jewish forces had advanced Southwards from the Dead Sea, Dr. Bunche said that his observers had no information on this.

The United States representative stated that the Committee should not take any hasty action, and should allow the Acting Mediator more time to negotiate a settlement.

The Syrian delegate, on the other hand, urged the Committee to take rapid action to study measures which could be taken against Israel for failing to comply with the Security Council's resolution.

"There is no more reason for inaction," he declared. The Committee then adjourned until Friday.—Reuter.

Negev Clash

Tel Aviv, December 9. Egyptian infantry suffered another loss of more than 100 killed and wounded in clashes with

Israeli forces near Nirim, in the Southern Palestine Desert of Negev, an Israeli Army spokesman said.

In addition, five tanks were knocked out in the same area on Tuesday, two Egyptian gren gun carriers were destroyed and several mortars silenced, the spokesman claimed.

The area is now quiet.—Associated Press.

Order By UN

Paris, December 8. The special Committee of the United Nations Security Council today gave the Jews and Arabs 48 hours to begin complying with Council orders for withdrawals from the Negev desert and for full-fledged armistice negotiations.

The Committee said the Security Council itself would be called into emergency session, possibly on Saturday, unless appreciable steps were taken to comply with the two orders.—United Press.

MYSTERY MAN

Tel Aviv, December 8.

Ellis Sassoon, 55-year-old Israeli press messenger, reported to have maintained contacts with Arab representatives in Paris and Geneva, arrived in Tel Aviv tonight.

He refused to comment on rumours that he had made considerable progress in talks with Transjordan and Egyptian emissaries. Sassoon's activities have been shrouded in mystery but consultations about recent developments in relations with Arab States are expected after he has reported to the Israeli Government.—Reuter.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE WORLD'S BEST HOPE

New York, December 8.

"Private enterprise is the world's best hope." This was the theme of the final declaration of the third annual convention of the National Foreign Trade Council here.

Sessions were attended by more than 2,000 American businessmen engaged in international trade or having investments abroad.

Significance of the Council's pronouncements is indicated in the claim that many of the elements of the Council's programme have now become an integral part of this nation's bi-partisan foreign policy.

The aim of the programme is the creation of an international environment in which free institutions can take root and flourish, said the Council, but it added:

"Its success will require the fullest exercise of the traditional initiative, energy and enterprise of the American people."

The Council strongly asserted that the system of free, private competitive enterprise has no equal in stimulating man's creative energies and satisfying his economic and spiritual needs.

"Political democracy and the spiritual concept of freedom itself are inseparably linked with economic freedom," said the declaration.—Associated Press.

British Car Records

London, December 9.

Motor manufacturing has come to the top as Great Britain's leading exporting industry, according to trade figures compiled by the Society of Motor Manufacturers.

The Society announced that in the first nine months of this year the motor industry earned £108,000,000 in overseas currency. The Board of Trade says it will take several years to fulfil existing domestic orders for cars at the present rate of production.

"And this despite the fact that more than 74,000 cars have come off British production lines since the end of the war and output now averages 7,000 a week," the Board's Journal said.

"The reason is, of course, that 75 per cent of the industry's output is now exported, as against only 20 per cent before the war."—Associated Press.

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FILM NEWS STAR BALLOT

If you have a favourite film star—and who hasn't?—take part in the "HONG KONG FILM NEWS" Star Ballot, and get all your friends to vote, too. This Ballot has been organised to give readers an opportunity of finding out who is the most popular actor and actress with Hong Kong filmgoers, and to discover, by election, the best film shown during the period October, 1947 to October, 1948.

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To the Editor, "HONG KONG FILM & THEATRE NEWS" Windsor House, Hong Kong.

Please record my vote in the "FILM NEWS" Star Ballot for the actor and actress whose names are given below. I have also chosen what I consider to be the best film of the year (October 1947–October 1948).

NAME
ADDRESS
ACTOR
ACTRESS
FILM

REPUBLIC OF KOREA ENDORSED BY THE UN

Seven New Members For U.N.?

Paris, December 8.
The United Nations General Assembly tonight formally declared in favour of the admission to the United Nations of seven new members.
They are Italy, Austria, El Salvador, Portugal, Transjordan and Ceylon.
Their applications had been vetoed in the Security Council by the Soviet Union.
The United States supported strongly these applications for membership.
Mr. B. Cohen (U.S.) said that he was fully satisfied that these countries came up to the required standards. He would also support applications from Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria, he said, if he was satisfied that they had complied with the clauses of the peace treaties, particularly on democratic rights.
The resolutions being discussed were in the form of recommendations that the Security Council should change its mind and approve the applications of the seven countries.
The Ukrainian delegate said that such resolutions could not be effective over the Security Council, which is the guarantee of the sovereign rights of the minority.
He accused the Western Powers of favouritism and discrimination in voting for some countries and not for others.—Reuter.

Paris, December 9.
The United Nations Political Committee last night approved a resolution endorsing the Republic of Korea.
The Republic was set up in the American zone after elections supervised by a special United Nations Commission.
The vote was 41 to six, with the Soviet bloc alone opposing.

Russia had demanded that the United Nations abolish the Commission immediately, saying the United States was using it to cloak an effort to turn Southern Korea into a playground of capitalism and a springboard for imperialism.
The Russian resolution was voted down, 12 to six.
The Australian, Chinese and American resolutions that were adopted endorsed the work of the commission, provided for setting up a new commission and approved the Korean Republic.
It also recommended that occupying powers withdraw their forces as early as practicable.
During the debate, Kuang Kiseiev, of White Russia, demanded of Mr. John Foster Dulles, American delegate: "What is the deadline for the withdrawal of troops?"

No Answer

Mr. Dulles did not answer. He has stated that if the Soviet would co-operate with the commission in an observed withdrawal of all occupation forces, it would resolve doubts in the minds of many delegates.
Russia has said her forces were leaving by January 1.
The Commission was sent to Korea to supervise elections for

the founding of a national government. However, Russia refused to let the Commission function in North Korea, where she is in occupation. The Commission, acting on instructions of the United Nations, thereupon went ahead with elections in Southern Korea last May. A republic under President Syngman Rhee was set up.

Salav Attack

The Political Committee voted to make the nine members of the old commission the members of the new commission.
They are the Ukraine, China, Australia, Philippines, India, Canada, United States, Britain and France. The Ukraine had refused to take a seat on the old commission, leaving only eight serving.

Mr. Jakob Malik of Russia led a day-long Slav bloc attack on the Commission.
Mr. Malik said the Republican regime at Seoul in Southern Korea was selling the country to the United States Army for 25 years in exchange for American support.
The Seoul Government, he claimed, was a reactionary regime of Japanese-educated collaborators.
He said the Americans planned to keep their forces in the country indefinitely, whereas the Russians would have no troops there after January 1.

Northern Army

Korean representatives have charged that Korean forces trained and indoctrinated by the Russians in the North were ready to cause trouble if occupation forces were withdrawn in the South.
Elsewhere in the United Nations the General Assembly finally put off consideration of the question of Italy's former colonies until the April meeting in New York. The Assembly is trying to wind up this session on Saturday night or Sunday morning.—Associated Press.

BURMA ELECTION

Rangoon, December 9.
The Elections Commission U Kyaw, estimated today that 11,000,000 will vote in an election on March 23 to name Burma's first Independent Parliament.
U Kyaw said he expected about 65 per cent of the population would take part. Some 8,000 polling stations will be set up for the start of the voting, open to Burmese citizens over the age of 18.
Meanwhile, reports of new troubles with the Communist insurgents were received.—Associated Press.

ARMoured CARS SENT TO MALAYA

London, December 8.
A number of armoured cars have been sent out for the use of the Malayan police and others will reach there shortly, the Under-Secretary for the Colonies, Mr. David Rees Williams, told the House of Commons today.

Mr. Rees Williams had been asked whether in view of the increasing ambushes of Malayan police, he was satisfied that they had sufficient armoured cars for their patrol.

"We are assured that the authorities are not dissatisfied with the position," he told his questioner, Mr. Leonard Gamman, Conservative, Sir Henry Gurney, the High Commissioner for the Federation, had expressed no dissatisfaction.
Mr. Rees Williams pointed out that in the main the patrols in Malaya were carried out by

infantry on foot. Places in which armoured cars could be used were limited.

When Mr. Walter Fletcher, Conservative, wanted to have exact details of the number of armoured cars sent, Mr. Williams Gallacher, Communist, shouted: "What are you getting out of it?"
The Speaker said allegations must not be made about Members getting something out of orders placed by Government and he was sure Mr. Gallacher did not mean to make such allegations. Mr. Gallacher withdrew his remark.—Reuter.

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"Dick Barton" In Court

London, December 8.
Noel Johnson (Dick Barton of the BBC) of West Hampstead was a witness at the Hampstead Court today.
He asked the press: "Please don't publish my address—I was mobbed the last time it appeared."
The court was dealing with a case dealing with damages to Johnson's car caused by another vehicle backing into it.—Reuter.

Economic War In China

Shanghai, December 9.
Chinese Communists are fighting a shrewd war on the economic front as well as on the battlefield.

Since the Government reformed its currency last August, the Communists have been making a grab for the new gold yuan. Every time they capture a city they confiscate all this money. It is then smuggled to large Government cities where under-cover Communist agents buy up essential goods. They offer three to four times the usual prices for such things as rice, cloth, medicine and radios.

This not only reduces the Government Area stocks while increasing Communist assets, but also makes it harder for the Government to combat inflation.

A victim of this warfare is Tsingtao. When the Communists captured Tsinan, Shantung province capital, they seized millions of gold yuan.

The money evidently was smuggled to Tsingtao, for bankers there have identified numbers of banknotes as having been issued in Tsinan.
Several persons carrying Tsinan currency were arrested, but it was hard to prove they came by it improperly, and, after all, it is legal tender.—Associated Press.

FALL TO DEATH

Bristol, December 8.
Mrs. May Kathleen Selway of bridge at Bristol. Her body was found 280 feet to her death today from the Clifton suspension bridge by workmen.—Reuter.

M.P.'s Brother In Divorce Scandal

London, December 8.
A wife who said her husband made her beat him with a riding whip and drive a chariot to which he was harnessed was granted a decree nisi here today.

Convent-educated 35-year-old Mrs. Dorothy Mary Stokes alleged cruelty by her husband, which she contended had conducted to her adultery committed with his connivance. The court exercised its discretion in her favour.

The husband, a company director, denied cruelty and himself asked for a divorce on the ground of adultery by Mrs. Stokes seven years ago with the present Earl of Calhoun (then Major James Roderick Sinclair) and later with Colonel K. Le Lloyd Riddle, an American. The Earl was dismissed from the suit.

Mr. Justice Hodgson said the wife alleged Mr. Stokes had dressed up as a harem slave and

Crisis Expected In S. Africa Politics

Johannesburg, December 8.
The political correspondent of the Rand Daily Mail, quoting opinion in Pretoria, seat of the Government, said a political crisis is expected on January 12.

On that date the South African Cabinet meets in Capetown, and a show down over the entrenched clauses in the Union's Constitution is probable.

The entrenched clauses safeguarding European language rights and also the franchise rights of coloured and African voters in Cape Province provide that any alterations can be made only by a two-thirds majority of both Houses of Parliament.

Yesterday there were rumours in financial and business circles in Johannesburg and Pretoria that when Parliament reassembles, the Prime Minister, Dr. Daniel Malan, would be forced to tender his resignation.

These rumours added that the Governor-General, Mr. Gideon Brand Van Zyl, would then call on General Jan Smuts, the United Party leader, to form a Government.
General Smuts would, however, decline, they said, and Mr. N. C. Havenga, Minister of Finance and leader of the Afrikaner Party, would form a Government under an agreement with the United Party, with General Smuts taking Cabinet rank but remaining the United Party's leader.

Back To 1939

It was further rumoured that some Nationalists, including possibly two present Cabinet Ministers, are expected to join Mr. Havenga and the political position would revert to that prevailing before the split in 1939 when the Afrikaner Party was founded by the late General Hertzog after he broke with General Smuts. There is at present, however, little substantive evidence of any link between the Afrikaner Party and the United Party though the general feeling of party members appears to be leaning in that direction.
Mr. Havenga told his party Congress on September 1 that it would be undesirable and dan-

gerous to force a decision on the Union's colour problems without regard to a clear-cut expression of the will of the people.
The next day, General Smuts said that the type of nationalism adopted by the Nationalists would wreck South Africa.—Reuter.

Confidence In Pound Rising

London, December 9.
The Evening Standard City Editor states that confidence in sterling is rising in the world's markets.

Rates in some free markets have steadily risen to their highest for a long time. Although the tourist season is over, sterling notes in New York recently commanded over three dollars—the highest level for more than two years.

Zurich dealers are giving 11.52 Swiss francs for a pound note, as compared with only 9.50 at the beginning of the year.
In Brussels, sterling recently staged a notable rally from under 140 Belgian francs to the current 140.

These free market rates are narrow and subject to superficial factors but they do somewhat indicate a change of sentiment abroad towards sterling.
Sterling is still far from the position where it can be made freely convertible again, but the distance begins to diminish.—Reuter.

THEY WERE ONLY CUBAN CIGARS

Havana, December 8.
The Cuban President, Senor Socarras, left here today in President Truman's personal plane for a five-day State visit to Washington.
The plane's departure was delayed for 15 minutes until three suspicious looking packages were removed but a check disclosed they contained only cigars.—Reuter.

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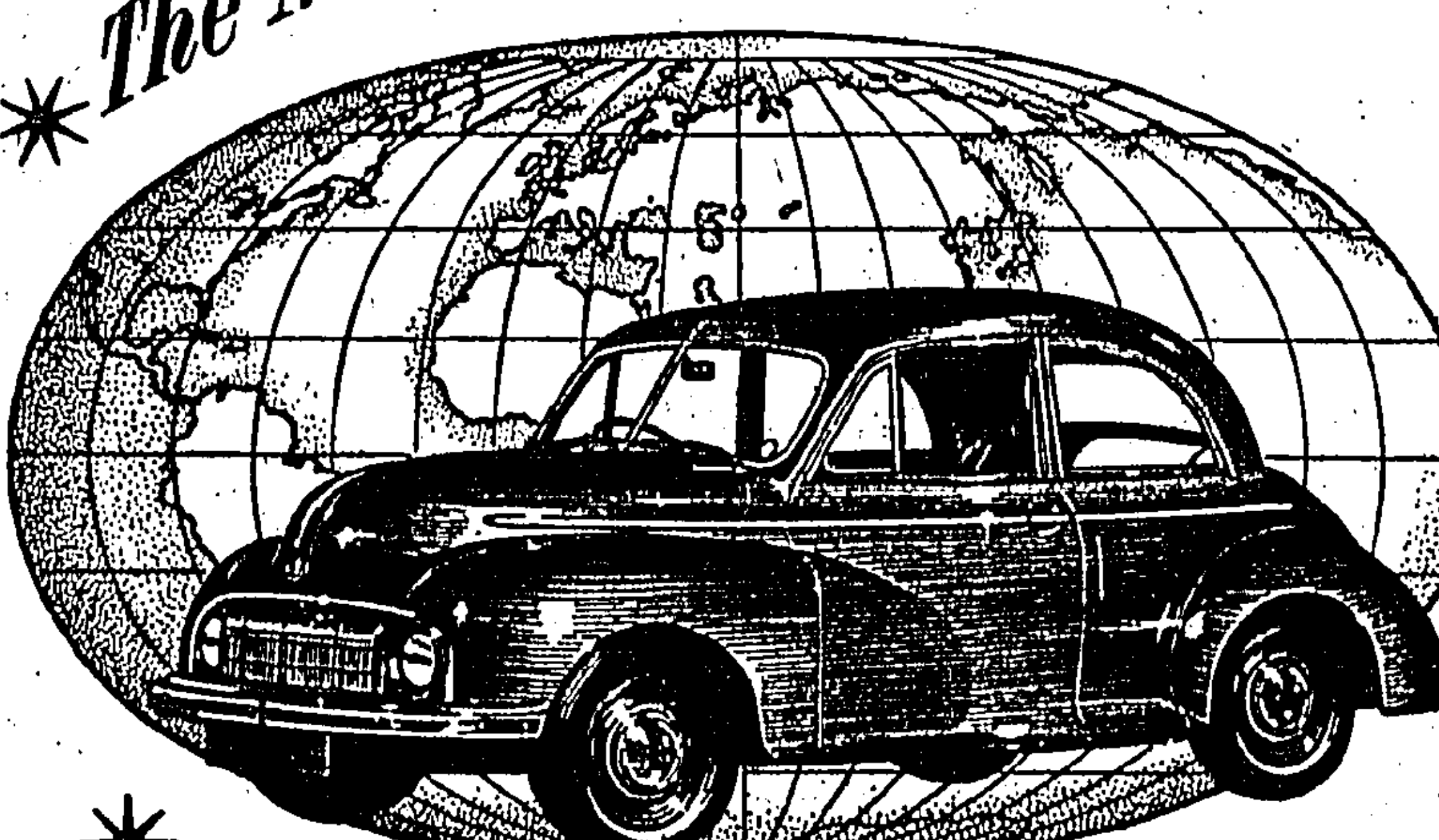
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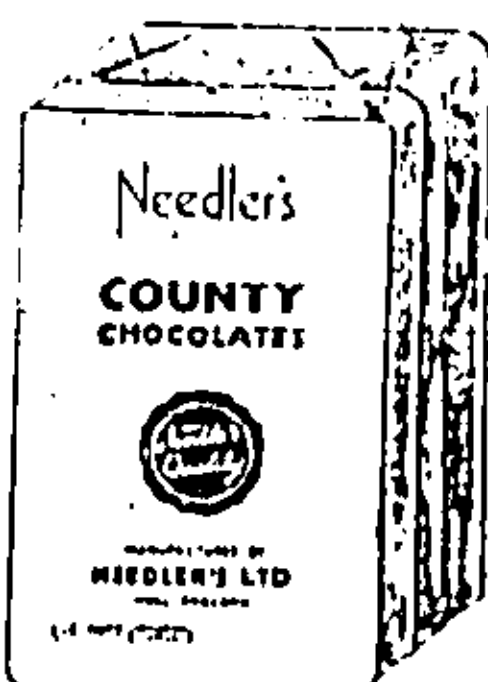
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CONFUSED SITUATION IN PENGPU SECTOR

Pongpu, December 9.

Covering the China war from an advance headquar-
ters is like looking through the wrong end of a
funnel.

The closer you are to the fighting the less you see
and understand.

General Liu Chih, overall
commander of the East China
front, has his headquarters here
and yet he knows far less of
what is going on over the entire
area than does Nanking. Units
further forward are even more
in the dark.

Chinese commanders complain
this is one serious fault in their
war operations. When any unit
advances against the Reds they
are almost instantly out of con-
tact.

Officers of Liu Chih's head-
quarters admit their knowledge
of three Government columns
moving South after evacuating
Hsuehchow is fragmentary, based
on belated reports. They also
admit the whereabouts and fate
of these columns is the key to the
whole decision in this region.

If the groups fight their way
through the Reds and join forces
with the other armies on the
Pongpu line, they jointly can
make a formidable force which
may still stall Choa Yi and Liu
Po-cheng's victory march for
months.

Travellers from across the river
said rural residents, many of
whose homes were burned by Na-
tionalist strafing during the
period of Red occupation, are in
acute misery without food,
shelter, and clothing.—Associated
Press.

Matter Of Time

On the other hand, if they
are gobbled up, then the con-
clusion of fighting along the
Pangpu line is only a matter
of time.

Because of a shortage of sup-
plies and munitions, the Reds are
holding back the columns under
Chen Yi, while Liu Po-cheng's
men fight, and vice versa.

In Pongpu, all schools were re-
quisitioned as barracks. At a
Catholic mission operated by
Bishop Francis Xavier, the
entire middle was used as a pris-
oner of war cage containing only
a handful of Reds, the remainder
being former Government troops
who were defeated, then recap-
tured or returned.

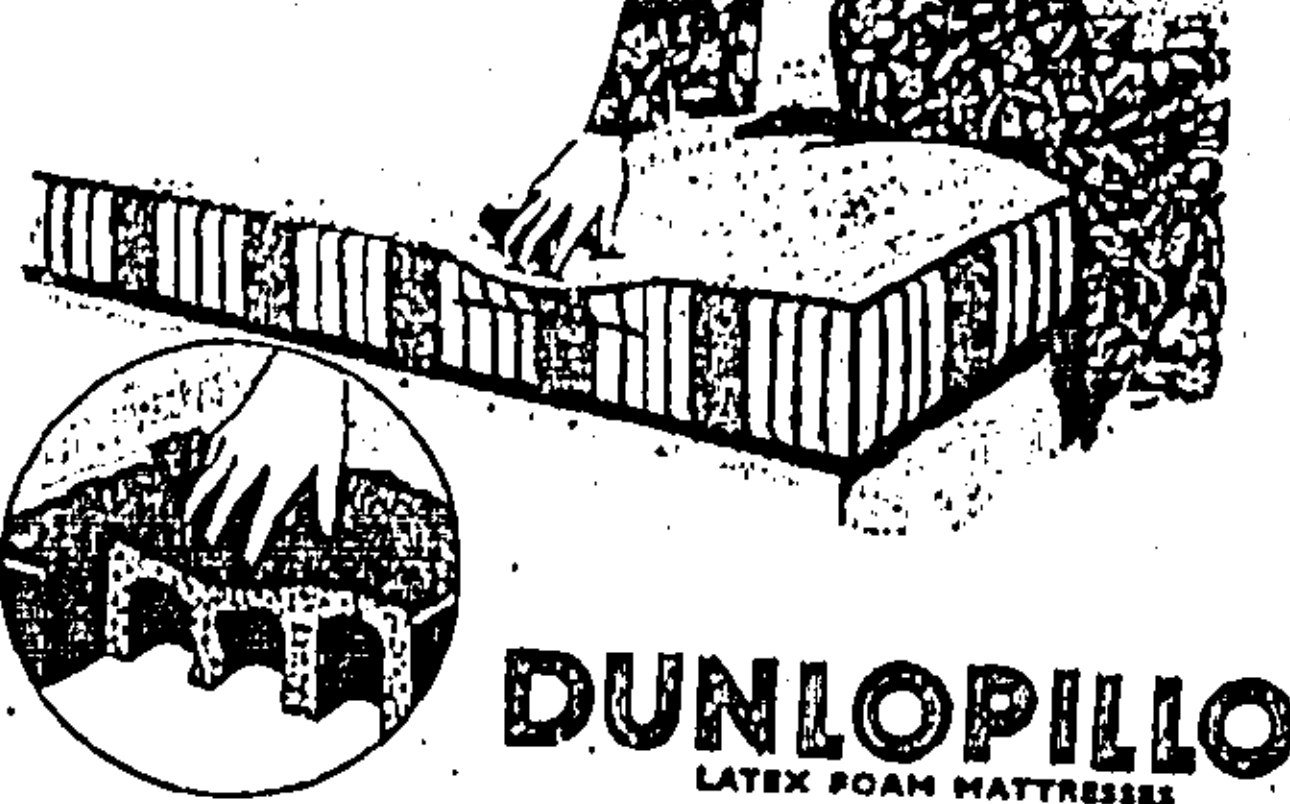
Observation Post

Two towers of the Catholic
church were converted into an
observation post with two Na-
tionalist soldiers constantly on
watch.

U.S. GOLD OUTPUT

Washington, December 9.
United States gold output in
October totalled 199,847 ounces,
as compared with 211,000 in
September and 233,667 in October,
last year, according to the Amer-
ican Bureau of metal statistics.
Gold output for the first ten
months of this year was 1,803,372
ounces as compared with 1,934,122
in the corresponding period of
1947.—Reuter.

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British Stand On Austria

Vienna, December 8.
Britain has agreed to Aus-
tria's suggestion of a meeting
of the Council of Foreign
Ministers to consider reopen-
ing negotiations for a State
treaty with Austria.
The United States accepted
the Austrian request last
night in a note to the Aus-
trian Legation in Washing-
ton, declaring that the Unit-
ed States was fully prepa-
red to take part in renewed
discussions.

The previous protracted
negotiations of the Foreign
Ministers' Deputies broke
down in May because of
Yugoslavia's claims, support-
ed by Russia, for reparations
and on the Austrian pro-
vince of Slovene Carinthia.
Reuter.

U.S. Prepared To Use Marines

Washington, December 9.

The Under-Secretary of State, Mr. Robert A. Lovett,
said today that the United States is prepared
to use marines to help evacuate 2,500 Ameri-
cans from Shanghai if necessary.

Mr. Lovett also told a news
conference there is enough
United States shipping in that
area to remove the Americans
if they are forced to leave from
advancing Communist forces.

He did not know whether
there are any plans to send ad-
ditional marines to Shanghai.
Neither did he know whether
marines would be used to pro-
tect American property there.

Mr. Lovett said it is up to in-
dividual Americans whether to
stay in China as the Communists
advance into the Yangtze Valley.
He recalled they had been ad-
vised in October to leave un-
less they had compelling reasons
to stay. Between November
and December 5, he added, 1,316
were evacuated.

Mr. Lovett said Consular and
Embassy officials will remain
at their posts. Asked whether
American diplomats would
stay in Nanking if the Chinese
Government moved from the
capital, he replied that would
be decided later.

In reply to a question, he said
that as far as he knows Madame
Chiang Kai-shek has not yet
offered a formal proposal for
new American aid to the Na-
tionalist Government. He ex-
plained, however, that he did
not know what the Chinese first
lady might have told the Secre-
tary of State, Mr. George Mar-
shall, in talks last week at Walter
Reed Hospital. Mr. Marshall is a
patient there.—Associated Press.

Pilot Blamed For Disaster

London, December 8.

The Ministry of Civil Avia-
tion today blamed the pilot for
the crash of the Belgian Sa-
bena airliner at London Air-
port on March 2 in which 20
people, including the pilot, were
killed.

The Ministry's report, published
today, says the inquiry has shown
that the accident must be attrib-
uted to misjudgment on the part
of the pilot when endeavouring
to land at night in conditions of
very poor visibility.

Passengers and a crew
of three were on board the air-
liner when it crashed in fog.
Reuter.

POP



Tientsin Sinks Into Commercial Doldrums

Tientsin, December 9.

Threatened by the Communists and seemingly
sighted by Nanking, this once great industrial
city is sinking into the commercial doldrums.
Tientsin is far from dead but the fortunes of war
have brought creeping paralysis upon the mills
and machines which once produced goods sold
from Moscow to Memphis.

Hundreds of factories and
workshops stand idle, their
owners unable or afraid to buy
raw materials to keep them
going.

They are unable to buy because
the money value is uncertain and
they cannot trade freely with
North China and Manchuria. They
hesitate to import because of
sweeping variations in exchange
and lack of domestic markets plus
uncertain prospects for the future.

Even if they could buy most of
them are afraid to do so because
they feel this city is certain to
fall to the Reds. People here
talk about when they will arrive
rather than if.

Some Trade

The cotton and grain mills,
operating mostly on ECA cot-
ton and grain, have little hope
of other outside help.

Despite these conditions there
is still some business being done.
Since June this year exports
have averaged about US\$2,000-
000 monthly, a good share of this
being flight shipments of goods
being hustled out before the ex-
pected arrival of the Reds.

Since September, according to
informed sources, there has been
little trade between this city and
the countryside although some
goods are arriving, including
limited amounts from Red areas.

Subdued Tension

Meanwhile there is an air of
subdued tension about the city.
There is a large working class
population here who are worried
about food. Any break in their
rationing might bring distur-
bances.

At the Race Course a new
airfield is being built. Many
Tientsinians believe this is an
escape hatch for officials, and
its construction adds to their
uneasiness.

New Chairman For ILO

Geneva, December 8.

Mr. Shumalharce Lall, Secre-
tary to the Indian Ministry of
Labour, was today elected Chair-
man of the governing body of
the International Labour Organi-
zation here, for one year.

He replaces Dr. Luis Alvarado
of Peru. Sir John Forbes Watson
of Britain, was re-elected as the
Employers' Vice-Chairman and
Mr. Leon Jothaux of France, as
the Workers' Vice-Chairman.

The governing body, composed
of representatives of 16 govern-
ments and of eight employer and
eight labour representatives, opened
its 107th session today
to deal with 21 agenda items on
manpower reports of industrial
committees, the budget, and the
fixing of the agenda for the
Organization's conference in 1950.
—Reuter.

MR. MARSHALL "SATISFACTORY"

Washington, December 8.

The condition of Mr. George
Marshall, United States Secretary
of State, was today described as
satisfactory by an authority at
the military hospital where he
underwent a kidney operation on
Wednesday.

A hospital bulletin said: "Mr.
Marshall's temperature, pulse and
respiration are normal. His gen-
eral condition is satisfactory.
There are no complications and no
reason to expect any. He is sit-
ting up in bed."—Reuter.

Brighter Shanghai Pictures

Shanghai, December 9.
The situation in Shanghai
seemed to have improved, at
least temporarily, with the
stabilisation of the fighting
front.

There has been a remarkable
reduction in the number of
evacuees of all nationalities—
both Chinese and foreign.

Prices of commodities and
luxury items are both going up
again, after plummeting for a
week straight in face of bad news.
The fact that they are going up
again indicates that shopkeepers,
merchants and others, who a
week ago were almost hysterically
trying to dump their stocks to
get out of business ahead of the
Communists, have decided that
it is still too early to concede
that Shanghai is lost.

Americans, particularly busi-
nessmen, are still very confused
about the basis of Consular
statements, and some clarification
from Washington on the definite
policy for U.S. business interests
in China is expected soon.—
United Press.

India Arrests Of Fanatics

New Delhi, December 9.

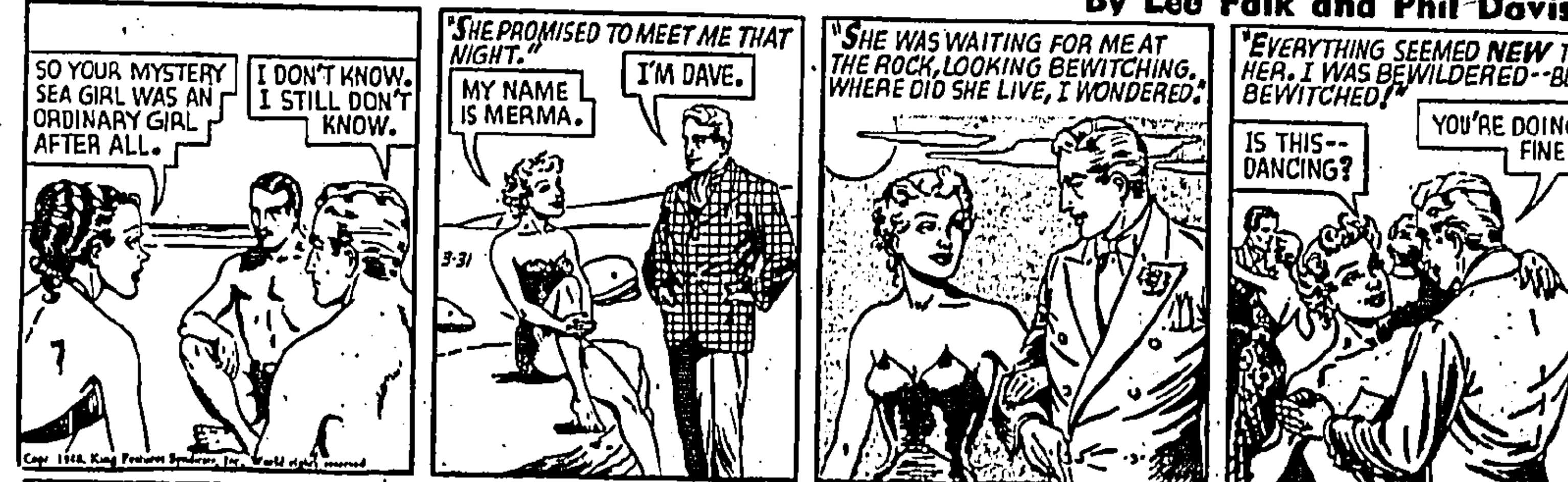
The Indian Government took
vigorous action yesterday against
leaders or organisations it accuses
of preaching religious hatred.

In Delhi and New Delhi, 30
leaders of the outlawed military
Hindu organisation, Rashtriya
Swayam Sewak Singh, were ar-
rested in a big round-up. B.
Dyani, General Secretary of the
Golwalker Party, was arrested as
he arrived by train.

The assassination of Mohandas
K. Gandhi last January has led
to the arrest of thousands of
members of militant organisa-
tions. Gandhi preached against
religious discord.—Associated
Press.

"MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN"

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